



THE PACRA PACER

San Marcos, CA

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Past President Fred Huber, President Jadene Dugas and bodyguard.

REUNION

April 1, 2000 9 am to 4 pm
San Marcos Campus

The Alumni Association of Palomar College has planned a REUNION at Palomar College for all past and present students and friends. Other groups which are cooperating to make this day one for renewing acquaintances include *The Patrons of Palomar College*, *The Retirees' Association of Palomar College (PACRA)*, *The Friends of the Arboretum (FOPA)*, *the Associated Students*, and *the Palomar College Foundation and Development Office*.

PACRA is publishing this issue a bit earlier than usual in hopes that more of our members will turn out for a pleasant day of memories.

The extensive work of the infrastructure of the campus should be completed by that date, and the campus will begin to return to its earlier beauty. The Pavilion of The Patrons Friendship Garden will be the center from which other activities will extend to all parts of the campus. Refreshments and music will be available. Come help us make this a day to remember!

NEWS FOR PERS RETIREES, BUT NOT FOR STRS

Senate Bill 400, the "Benefit Equity" legislation, provided a special increase for retirees with state or school service under CalPERS. This does not affect retirees under STRS, the system which covers most of our certificated retirees.

If you retired under CalPERS prior to January 1, 1998, you will see this special increase in your April 1 benefit payment. This payment will include the increase of January, February, and March 2000. It becomes a permanent part of your monthly allowance. But remember, this has no bearing on retirees under STRS. Nor does it cover CalPERS retirees who retired in 1998 or 1999.

The legislation provides for varying increase percentages based on your year of retirement under CalPERS:

Year of Retirement Under PERS	Percentage of Increase
1974 or earlier	6%
1975 through 1984	5%
1985 through 1989	4%
1990 through 1994	3%
1995 and 1996	2%
1997	1%

(From "In Touch," a newsletter for CalPERS Retirees)

DURST BAGS BEAST

Peter Durst, PACRA Board Member, with some family members, went elk hunting in Oregon in December. Peter met the odor of his prey while hunting in a light rainfall near John Day. As he walked over a ridge he sighted the 900 pound animal about 35 yards away. He cranked and shot from his .300 Winchester Magnum and hit the animal. It then turned and began running at him. Three more shots brought the animal to a halt about 11 steps from him. Soon he will have a beautiful 5 x 5 trophy (33 inches tall and 39 inches wide) on his wall.

PARKING FINES GO UP

The errant auto driver who violates parking or traffic regulations will find increases in fines. Parking fines have been increased by the Governing Board. The red zone fine is now \$60 and violation of handicapped parking areas is now \$300.

Those caught using fraudulent parking permits will be fined \$75 plus the \$25 cost to buy an official permit, with additional hours of community service.

Revenue from fines covers about 80% of the budget of the campus police department.

PROGRESS ON THE POWAY SITE

The land at Pomerado Road and the Ted Williams Parkway, the proposed site of the Southern Education Center in Poway, is now one step closer to becoming a part of Palomar College. This site is not far north of the border with the San Diego Community College District which seeks to build a campus on Miramar Road. The two college districts must agree before either one can build a new campus.

Palomar College, through Jerry Patton, assistant superintendent and vice-president for finance and administrative services, said that Palomar agreed not to compete with the San Diego District over state money that would help build a campus.

In return for giving the San Diego District seven uncontested years to raise state money for the Miramar campus, the San Diego District agreed not to oppose the Poway facility. Construction of a first building may be three to five years away.

Students on the southern rim of Palomar's extensive district now attend the college's classes at Poway and Mt. Carmel high schools.

THE STARS WORE OUT

The projector of the Planetarium system, in heavy use for 37 years, is hardly able to show the wonders of the universe. Parts for the projector needed to maintain its operation are no longer available.

On February 22, 2000, the Governing Board agreed to replace the instrument with a Digital System model at a cost of \$458,000. This is about \$150,000 off the usual price because the instrument has been used at trade shows and demonstrations. The projector was partially funded by a \$100,000 from the Palomar College Foundation. James Pesavento, director of the Palomar College

Planetarium, expects the new projector will be installed by the fall of 2000.

The original instrument was obtained through a Federal grant in 1963 through the efforts of Mr. Charles Coutts, then Dean of the Science Division. He, assisted by Mr. Gordon Stubblefield, followed by Sandy Miles Scheetz and Joseph Willis, operated the instrument and devised programs for it for many years. One of our recent losses was Joe Willis who passed away in December.

Public presentations in the Planetarium over the years have entertained countless school children and adults of our communities.

CONSTRUCTION SOON COMPLETED

In February, Mr. Mike Ellis, director of facilities, stated that the reconstruction of the infrastructure of the campus was 90 to 95% completed. It is hoped that all work will be finished by REUNION DAY, April 1, 2000. All underground utilities have been placed and are in operation. Crews are now working on the lateral lines.

There have been no great surprisers during the construction. A lot of rock had to be removed, but that was expected. This extensive project was financed by a state grant.

POSSIBLE BOND ISSUE

The Governing Board of Palomar College has been investigating the feasibility of putting a bond question before the public on the November 2000 ballot. A poll taken by a consulting firm last November of 600 respondents showed 36% definitely yes, 29% probably yes, 16% definitely no, 9% probably no, and 10% no answer.

To be successful, a bond election must, under present constitutional law, receive at least 66 2/3% favorable votes, that is, two "yes" for each "no". An attempt to change the eligible percent to a simple majority for school elections failed in the March 7 election.

The amount of a bond question has not yet been determined, but it centers around \$170 million. Projects under consideration are a new science building, expansion of athletic facilities, increased lighting and parking, and various safety measures.

LIBRARY BUILDING PROBLEMS

The Phil H. Putnam Memorial Library continues to cause some employees to complain of the environment,

complaining of headaches, burning eyes, and breathing troubles.

The cause of such problems has not been discovered, although extensive technical studies have been made. Records of the problem and attempts to solve it fill several cartons of documents.

This library building was opened in 1983 and was the product of a trend in design to seal buildings and save energy costs, a characteristic which may have led to some of the problem.

The original building contract with Luetto Construction Company was approved on May 12, 1981, for \$4.18 million. ACR Mechanical Corporation of San Diego installed the heating, air-conditioning, and ventilation systems.

In 1993, complaints caused the college to approve a redo of the insides of the building at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million.

FIVE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN

The Governing Board has approved a five-year construction plan for the San Marcos campus with a 73,000 sq. ft. multi-story building as top priority. The building would house science and technology laboratories and classrooms. Its estimated cost is \$39.2 million.

Mr. Mike Ellis, Palomar's facility director, has stated that the science laboratories are now insufficient to meet the needs of students.

Second in priority is \$6.43 million for renovation of the classroom complex which includes the labs for chemistry, life sciences, and earth sciences.

Third priority are funds for the Southern Education Center in Poway, with \$19.5 for the project.

Fourth priority is a 15,000 sq. ft. \$6.6 million addition to the Phil H. Putnam Memorial Library for a center to house computers for student use.

Fifth priority is an education center in Fallbrook costing \$20 million, to open in 2005.

The college is requesting an additional \$1.97 million to make buildings, restrooms, and drinking fountains more accessible as required by the Federal law, Americans with Disabilities Act.

DISCRIMINATION

The Governing Board has adopted policies to enforce a state law passed in October 1999 which prohibited discrimination against any student on the basis of sexual orientation.

DONNA'S BACK IN TOWN

Miss Donnabelle Casey of Cedar Falls, Iowa, was honored at a coffee reception at Palomar on March 7, 2000. The Everhealth Foundation established by Nancy Lee and Michael Lopez, honored Donna by presenting a Donna Casey Scholarship Endowment of \$30,000 which will be given annually, for \$2,500 to a returning nursing student. Miss Casey, a former instructor in Nursing Education, arrived at Palomar in June 1967 shortly after the department had been established by Mrs. Mary Fulton and Dean Charles Coutts in 1966. She became department head after Mary's retirement.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The California State University system has again reported on the success of transfer students and, once again, Palomar College transfer students continue to perform very well at California State University. The latest report showed that Palomar students who transferred to California State University received a 2.95 GPA versus 2.88 system-wide at CS Universities. Palomar transfer students had an 81% continuation rate in the second semester versus an 82% system wide rate.

SENIOR HEALTH CARE COSTS

The annual Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) for the year 2000 will be only 2.4% despite continuing double-digit annual increases in spending on prescription drugs and other out-of-pocket health care costs.

According to industry statistics, generic drugs are dispersed 60% of the time, but account for only 10% of the overall expenditure. Greater availability of generic drugs would mean significant savings to seniors.

This is an issue which seniors can help by keeping pressure by letter, cards, and calls to your Members of Congress.

ADDRESSES

PACRA officials have followed the instructions from members who do not want their addresses and telephone numbers placed in general circulation. We cannot obtain such information from the College Human Resources Office because of the privacy laws.

We would like to publish e-mail addresses in the November 2000 issue. Please send such information to John if possible. John's e-mail address is jdschettler@juno.com

WORDS FROM THE PREXY

An article by Dr. George R. Boggs, Superintendent-President in the Winter '99 issue of *Insight* calls attention to the continuing problems of community college finance.

"California's 107 community Colleges lost 11 percent of their purchasing power when they did not receive cost-of-living adjustments for four years during the recession in the 1990s. Costs continued to increase during this period, but the state still has not restored the lost funding. As a result, the per-student public funding for community colleges in California now lags seriously behind the national average. While California community colleges receive just over \$4,000 per full-time student, the national average is more than \$6,000 per student...

"To supplement inadequate state support for scholarships, equipment and facility improvements, the Palomar College Foundation and the President's Associates have raised over \$10 million since 1991 in cash, charitable remainder trusts, and donated equipment and materials....

"With the relatively low level of public funding currently provided for the state's community colleges, it is a constant challenge to maintain facilities, to maintain competitive salaries for faculty and staff, to meet the demand for new technology in our classrooms and laboratories, and to develop additional education programs needed by students and our communities. We appreciate all of the support Palomar has received over the years, and we will be asking local legislators and Governor Davis to correct current funding inequities."

LOST ADDRESSES

We have lost contact with a few of our members. If anyone can furnish us with the current mailing addresses of Mrs. Mary McClain and Mrs. Carolyn Wood we would appreciate it.

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Palomar College Retirees' Association -- PACRA
1140 West Mission Road
San Marcos, CA 92069-1487