



THE PACRAPACER

San Marcos, CA

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Much has happened at Palomar College since the last issue of The PACRA PACER. We shall try to tell you in a brief fashion about some of the significant events, but we won't be able to cover them all. There's nothing static about Palomar—it's too dynamic for us to keep up-to-date. Our sources of information include the minutes of the Governing Board; the student newspaper, The Telescope; the college information bulletin, Insight; and published newspaper accounts.

INTERIN SUPERINTENDENT/ PRESIDENT

Upon notification of the resignation of Dr. Sherrill Amador, the Governing Board authorized the selection and employment of an interim superintendent/president. Our new chief is Dr. Richard Jones, a veteran of 47 years of experience, who started on July 2, 2004, and is expected to serve until a contracted superintendent/president is chosen.

The conclusion of an employment contract between the faculty and the District is one of the most immediate problems to reach the new interim president. The final selection of a new superintendent/president will be through Governing Board action, probably before January 2005.

One of the touchy issues of the contract concerns teacher workload. As Dr. Jones has pointed out the average workload throughout the state in community colleges is 18 hours per week, compared to a 15-hour load at Palomar. (The Telescope, August 23, 2004.)

This is Dr. Jones' tenth position as an interim head of a California Community College District since his retirement. He is also a retired Lieutenant Commander in the United States Coast Guard Reserves. He has had a wide range of experience in high schools and colleges, and is himself a product of San Bernardino Valley Community College.

THE NEW GOVERNING BOARD

Elections of November 2, 2004, have given us a new Governing Board:

Mrs. Nancy Chadwick, with 20.21% of the votes;

Dr. Ruth Larson, with 19.04% of the votes; and Mr. Donald McMullen, with 15.91% of the votes.

The continuing members of the Board are Mr. Mark R. Evilsizer and Dr. Michele T. Nelson. The student member of the board will be announced after the Associated Student election.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL

Redevelopment work for the Student Center in recent months caused the dislocation of the Veterans' Memorial near the flagpole. But a new memorial has been created in the same general area through volunteer funds. It was dedicated on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2004, listing veterans who lost their lives in Vietnam or Iraq. Fourteen students died in Vietnam, and an equal or larger number have been killed in Iraq. Mary Tennant, assisted by Judy Duncan, chaired the Veterans' Memorial committee. Further funds will be needed. Contributions can be arranged by writing the Veterans' Service office at Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069, or by calling Tennant or Duncan at (760) 745-1150, extension 2175.

The first name entered on the stones was in 1965 when Jimmy Mitchell, killed in Vietnam, a former Palomar student and captain of the basketball team was honored.

CHANGES AT THE FOUNDATION

Mr. Dale Wallenius, Chief Advancement Officer and Vice-President of the Palomar College Foundation, has resigned and accepted a similar position at California State University San Marcos.

LOSS OF OUR FRIENDS

We note the loss of three special friends of Palomar College in recent weeks. Mr. Richard (Dick) Nissen handled the insurance business of the College for many years through the North County Insurance Company of Escondido. His services were always timely and accurate.

Mrs. Jennifer Lebedeff, long-time member and leader of the Patrons of Palomar College, passed away

in August. She organized the tremendous annual plant sales that had developed out of the Pink Elephant Sales. Spending unnumbered hours contacting nurseries, arranging for the days of the sales, and selecting trucks and drivers to bring the trees and shrubs to the sale site was a tremendous undertaking for several years. Her great goal was campus beautification; identifying projects that would both beautify the campus and also be of service to the students. Jennifer's last project was the reestablishment of the Patrons' Friendship Garden, located just north of the Phil H. Putnam Memorial Library. It will replace the original Friendship Garden developed by the Patrons in the early 1950's, but which fell to the development of the present Administration Building. It featured the Peace rose, a beauty developed in France in the 1940's. Some descendants of those original roses still exist, cultivated from slips.

Dr. Ray Dahlin, professor of speech and coach of the forensic teams for several years brought national honors to Palomar. His influence in enlarging our liberal education goals will long be remembered. The values of such aspects of education may seem to be obscure, but we can cite the instance of the stonemason of Athens who asked such deep-seated questions that we are even yet pondering their answers. And we can also recall a carpenter from the eastern end of the Mediterranean who taught in his spare time and left us a moral philosophy that is still very widely accepted.



A LITTLE THANK YOU TO TWO LEADERS

A nearby picture of Mrs. Jean Huston and Dr. Fred Huber is our small thank-you for their continuing leadership of PACRA since its origin in 1991. Dr. Fred has just celebrated his 90th birthday, and Jean looks forward to her ***** in February. (Sorry, my mother taught me never to reveal a lady's age, but it probably is 39). Some folks just stay young

OUR DOME ON A POSTAGE STAMP

The U. S. Postal Service honored Buckminster Fuller last July by issuing a commemorative postage stamp (37c) for his engineering designs, which created the geodesic dome. Our dome, built in 1959, was the sixth such structure in the world, and the first in California. The first athletics event was in 1959 when the men's basketball team opened it for use.

Mr. C. J. Paderewski (Pat) was the project architect, while Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation fabricated the metal panels and developed the erection technique. It was created in five days after the brick supporting panels were finished, with the help of a 110-foot portable tower sitting in the middle of the floor, lifting the developing dome as each ring of panels was attached. Funding its cost of \$284,665 was by a voter approved bond issue. The original Student Union was build in the same year. The dome is 71 feet in height and is bolted to 25 concrete piers, with brick paneling between the piers. The stamp itself was designed by Mr. Carl T. Hermann of Carlsbad, based on the Boris Artzybasheff painting that had appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1964.

TRANSPORTATION OF THE FUTURE

Ride the Rails to Palomar. It looks as if it will really become possible. A headline of July 17, 2004, "Sprinter Now Up to the Builder" seems to announce that the 22 miles of track between Escondido and Oceanside will be rebuilt, but requiring about three years to finish.

Besides connecting the two cities as well as San Marcos

and Vista, it will give rapid connections to San Diego and Los Angeles.

Construction crews must replace the present rails and build 15 train platforms, install warning signals, flashing lights, and safety gates. At the peak of construction an estimated 250 to 300 workers will be necessary.

Some employees of the North County Transit District have been working on the railroad's plans for two decades. The estimated cost is \$375 million dollars.

A special loop has been approved for the San Marcos area to allow the trains to load and unload passengers onto the campus of California State University San Marcos. There will be a station adjacent to Palomar College.

Delivery of the rails began in November 2004 when large quantities were unloaded in Escondido, the point at which the work will begin.

THE NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Construction of the new facility has begun, the building officially known as the High Technology Laboratory/Classroom Building, on the site north of the Library Building formerly known as the Green Belt.

The Governing Board accepted the second low bid of \$27,425,000 from C. E. Wylie Construction Company of San Diego on October 12, 2004, after the apparent low bid was withdrawn by the bidder because of a clerical error.

Construction should start very soon on the three-acre site. The entire project should be ready for occupancy by the end of 2006.

Events leading to the contract are interesting. It is the third science building on the San Marcos campus, and first entered the master plan of the college in 1972 when Mr. Charles Coutts identified the need for expansion for chemistry, physics, life sciences, earth sciences, and computer technology. The preliminary plan called for a three floor building in a Y-format to be built between the Business Building and the Engineering Building, then, as of now, a parking lot. The plan did not get off paper because the College was unable to interest enough affirmative voters of the electorate to pass a bond issue. At that time, the estimated cost, including equipment was about one-tenth of the contract price of the new HTCL Building recently approved.

At the time of the early plan, computer technology only faintly resembled that field of today. The computer units were approximately the size of small automobiles and used punched cards for input. Personal computers as we know them today were a development of the future. If the original plan had been followed and had been equipped with the technology of that year, it all

would have been obsolete in a few years. So sometimes a matter that seems to be a loss for our students turns out to be an advantage in the long run.

But there have been an uncounted number of students in the past thirty years whose education in the physical and life sciences has been set back, with an unrecoverable damage to their education. The last bond election passed by the electorate of the District was in 1972, with 25-year bonds, all of which were paid off by 1997.

At the regular meeting of November 9, the Governing Board approved payments to Keenan Associates of \$1,334,837 for insurance coverage for the length of construction period, covering workers' compensation, general liability, contractor's pollution liability, and builder's risk insurance for all contractors on the project.

Groundbreaking for the building has been set for Friday, December 3, 2004, at noon, near the Patrons' Friendship Pavilion.

The inspector of record, a most important position, will be the Cardill-based firm of Construction Inspection Services.

The building will be of three floors, providing 107,000 square feet to accommodate 20 laboratories, 10 classrooms, and space for over 100 offices.

Money for construction came from an economic stimulus package that Governor Gray Davis put before the Legislature after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

THE HUBBELL ARCH

The brick arch, created by the widely known artist, Mr. James Hubbell, was on the site of the new science building, but has been moved to the Palomar College Arboretum.

REMINDER OF GOOD PROGRAMS

Palomar offers many good programs for the public through its Performing Arts Department during the winter and spring months, too many for listing here, but here are two outstanding ones in January:

January 16, Concert Band Concert, Winter Highlights, 8 PM, Howard Brubeck Theatre;

January 18-19, Chorale and Symphony Concert, Fiesta Natal, Sat. 8 PM, Sunday 2 PM, Howard Brubeck Theatre.

The Theatre Box office is available on telephone in the afternoons, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2453.

Palomar's Theatre program, directed by Mr. Michael Mufson, head of the Performing Arts Department, provides students with experiences in acting, designing and building sets, making costumes, and learning how

to be a lighting or sound technician, or in directing. The above telephone number can be used to get onto their mailing list.

GROWTH

Plans for developing the San Marcos campus, starting in 1960, vastly underestimated the demands of such large numbers of students. Originally the campus was purchased and expanded to hold 7,500 students. But there are now 21,000 students on the campus, along with 2,000 employees. It is easy to see why the College has very real problems in providing classrooms, laboratories, parking spaces, athletic fields, and service areas.

In addition to the numbers on the original campus, there are very large numbers of students in eight off campus locations including the 5,000 in the Escondido Education Center.

The college authorities began to study the growth problems in the 1970's; and definite ideas were advanced for added campuses in the Poway and Fallbrook areas. But nothing so far has come out of these ideas.

Plans are now in preparation to consider the paperwork and possible locations for two more campuses to serve an expected 18,000 NEW students over the next few years.

LATE NEWS

Mrs. Williamn Eddy (Edith) passed away very recently. We give our deep sympathy to Bill. A memorial service will be held at Mission San Luis Rey at 1 PM on Saturday, December 11.

VANDALISM ON CAMPUS

Vandals broke into the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society Garden on campus in mid-October and created over \$50,000 damages to numerous exotic plants.

The Society has operated and maintained the garden on the College campus since 1960, and has developed into a significant landmark for the college. The vandals, after climbing over a tall fence, hacked down about 100 of the 1,500 plants, some of the 15-foot tall ones were whacked to 4 feet. Members and friends are accepting replacements of some of the damaged species, but it will take time for these slow-growing plants to restore themselves. The garden is divided into different areas of the world, including North and South America, Madagascar, the Canary Islands, Australia, Baja California, California, and a Sonora Desert section.

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