



# The Bowfin Inquirer



January, 1994

## A Silent Night?

by Jerry Lerman

Over 30 Bowfin Street carolers and friends proved otherwise on December 18th when they took to the streets to bring joyous tidings to the neighborhood. Although the weather was definitely chilly, they *pa-rum-pum-pum-pummed* and *fa-la-la-la-la*ed their way down Bowfin, from the *cul-de-sac* down to Marlin Park. They even visited the Marlin home with the beautiful, somewhat overwhelming decorations. (Is there any question which house we're speaking about here?)

Selections sung included (**choose 3 of 4**)

- (a) "The First Noel"
- (b) "Strangers in the Night"
- (c) "Joy to the World"
- (d) "Deck the Halls"

(Hint: the carolers did not *doo-be-doo-be-doo* their ways down the street.)

Following the choral meanderings, a warm dose of hot chocolate and cookies was administered at the home of Kathi Norris, who organized the event. A splendid ending to a wonderful evening!

## Solutions to Last Month's "Scrambled Season"

- 1) H R Y M R = MYRRH
- 2) E H M N O A R = MENORAH
- 3) D E E I T L Y U = YULETIDE
- 4) H G E I S L = SLEIGH
- 5) K I C N O T S G = STOCKING
- 6) I I T V N A Y T = NATIVITY
- 7) E I D D L R E = DREIDEL
- 8) N E P E S R T = PRESENT
- 9) B M N E N T U A A N =  
TANNENBAUM
- 10) G O I R N A L C = CAROLING

## Follow-Up to Last Month's Dog-Sitting Request

Harmon Brown (345 Bowfin) asks us to remind whoever it was that called last month in response to his need for a dog-sitter for Lady, his Golden Retriever: he'd appreciate hearing back from you - his need still exists. Please call him at 341-5726.

**Deadline for February issue contributions: January 31st**

**Please Drop Off Your Articles/ Ideas/Recipes at 344 Bowfin**

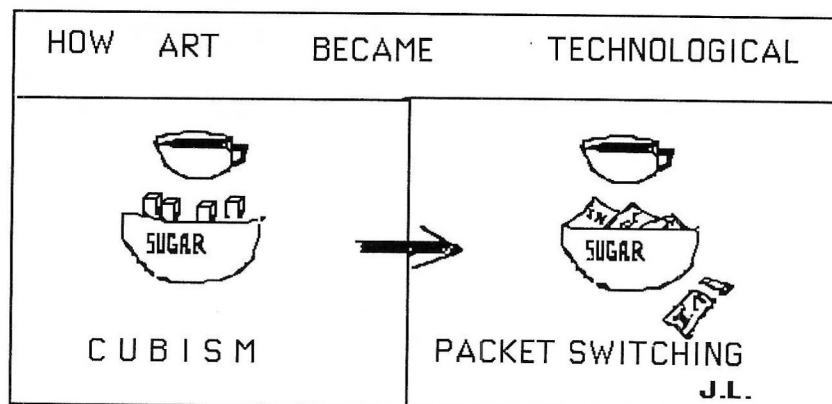
**THANKS!**

## A New Year's Puzzle

*(from Raymond Smullyan's, 5000 B.C. and Other Philosophical Fantasies,  
New York: St. Martin's Press, 1983)*

Suppose there are two identical twin brothers, one who always lies and the other who always tells the truth. Now, the truth teller is also totally accurate in all his beliefs; all true propositions he believes to be true and all false propositions he believes to be false. The lying brother is totally inaccurate in his beliefs; all true propositions he believes to be false, and all false propositions he believes to be true. The interesting thing here is that each brother will give the same answer to the same question. For example, suppose you asked whether two plus two equals four. The accurate truth teller knows that it is and will truthfully answer yes. The inaccurate liar will believe that two plus two does not equal four (since he is inaccurate) and will then lie and say that it does; he will also answer yes.

Two logicians were having an argument over a question about these hypothetical brothers: Suppose one were to meet one of the two brothers alone. Would it be possible by asking him any number of yes-no questions to find out which one he is? One logician said, "No, it would not be possible because whatever answers you got to your questions, the other brother would have given the same answers." The second logician claimed that it was possible to find out. The second logician was right, and the puzzle for you has two interesting parts: (1) How many questions are necessary?; and (2) more interesting yet, What was wrong with the first logician's argument?







# The Bowfin Inquirer



February, 1994

## Valentines Night Out!!

Everyone needs to do something special for Valentine's Day.

Husbands and wives, go out for a nice dinner and enjoy yourselves as you reminisce over the past years together!

Kids! Come to 321 Bowfin and enjoy a special time with the Norris'. We'll make pizza, valentines, and play games together.

**Time: 5-8 P.M.**

**When: Monday, February 14th**

**Where: 321 Bowfin**

**Cost: \$1 per child**

Happy Valentine's Day!  
- Rick and Kathi Norris

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## Bible Study Sessions

We would like to invite all interested to a neighborhood Bible Study. It's on Fridays at 7:30 PM at the Aubert's home, 300 Bowfin. It's informal and lots of fun. Come and learn and share your ideas, too!

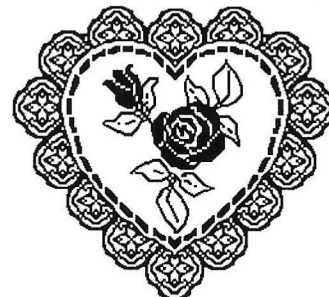
The theme for the Fridays in February is "Forever Families."

For more information, please call Allan and Sandy Aubert at 571-8006. (Child care is provided.)

## Solution to Last Month's Logic Puzzle (from Raymond Smullyan)

To determine which brother you are addressing, one question is enough; just ask him if he is the accurate truth teller. If he is, he will know that he is (since he is accurate) and truthfully will answer *yes*. If he is the inaccurate liar, he will believe that he is the accurate truth teller (since he is inaccurate in his beliefs), but then he will lie and say *no*. So the accurate truth teller will answer *yes* and the inaccurate liar *no* to this question.

Now what was wrong with the first logician's argument; don't the two brothers give the same answer to the same question? They do, but the whole point is that if I ask one person, "Are *you* the accurate truth teller?" and then ask another "Are *you* the accurate truth teller?" I am really asking two different questions since the identical word *you* has a different reference in each case.



*(Heart for Heart's Sake )*

### **Quotes For Valentines Day**

(from Bartlett's Familiar  
Quotations)

Love your neighbor, yet pull not  
down your hedge.

- George Herbert, *Jacula  
Prudentum* [1651]

I only know that creeds to me  
Are but new names for mystery,  
That good is good from east to  
east,

And more I do not know nor need  
To know, to love my neighbor well.

- Joaquin Miller, *The Tale of  
the Tall Alcalde*

### **Quotes For Presidents' Day**

*From Abraham Lincoln:*

I go for all sharing the privileges  
of the government who assist in  
bearing its burdens. [Letter to the  
Editor, Sangamon Journal, 1836]

If by the mere force of numbers a  
majority would deprive a minority  
of any clearly written  
constitutional right, it might, in a  
moral point of view, justify  
revolution -- certainly would if  
such a right were a vital one.  
[First Inaugural Address, 1861]

*From George Washington:*

The preservation of the sacred  
fire of liberty, and the destiny of  
the republican model of  
government, are justly considered

as deeply, perhaps as finally  
staked, on the experiment  
entrusted to the hands of the  
American people. [First Inaugural  
Address, 1789]

The basis of our political system  
is the right of the people to make  
and to alter their constitutions of  
government. [Farewell Address,  
1796]

### **Your Opinions Welcome Here!**

Most of us will be interested in  
the forthcoming election, in which  
Foster City residents will be  
voting on the School District/High  
School issue: some of us because  
we have children whose  
educational experiences may hinge  
on the outcome; others because  
the costs of funding a new school  
district and high school edifice  
may prove burdensome.

I know I have opinions on the  
subject - and I'm not particularly  
shy about them - but rather than  
publicize mine in isolation, I'd  
rather wait to assemble a few of  
YOUR opinions on the subject and  
then package them all in next  
month's issue. If you are  
interested in having others see  
your point of view and your  
reasoning, please contribute to  
our edition next month. This topic  
warrants our information- and  
opinion-sharing, and the Bowfin  
Inquirer is here to help make that  
happen!

**"College Savings Plus"**  
*Presentation on Diskette*  
*(IBM PC)*

Anyone with kids will be interested in learning more about how to save for their college years. We've obtained a presentation diskette from the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company which discusses the problems we'll all face trying to keep up with ever-rising tuition bills. It will let you see what kind of costs you'll face at various kinds of institutions, and what kinds of savings products can help you get there. On top of that, it's an impressive piece of computer graphics and fun to work with.

If you'd like to borrow this diskette (3-1/2", IBM-compatible) to have a look-see, just give us, Jerry or Eve Lerman, a call at 572-9153.

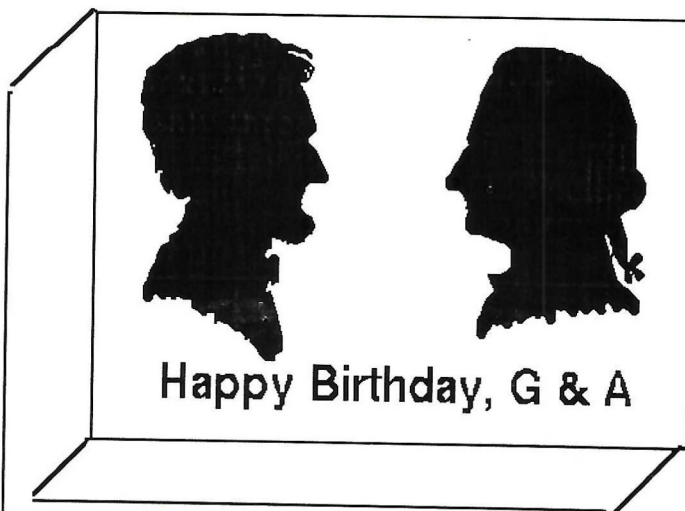
(We're not representatives of John Hancock, nor will we receive any compensation from them.)

**Cutting The**  
**Presidential Birthday Cake**

Eight attendees at the Presidential birthday party each wanted equal slices of the rectangular cake. "That's easy!" said the host. "I'll just make four straight-line cuts and I'll have pieces for you all in no time."

"But you don't need to make four cuts!" protested his know-it-all daughter. "You can do it in fewer than that."

That know-it-all was right. Do you know how dad can do it in only three cuts?



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**Deadline for Next Issue Is:**  
**February 28th**  
**Drop off your items at 344 Bowfin**  
**or call 572-9153.**



# The Bowfin Inquirer



March, 1994

## Neighborhood Network

Our neighbor, Kris Scherman, points out that if you need pet sitting, she knows of a good source in Rosalind's Pet Sitting, 348-9152.

## Solution to Last Month's Puzzle: Cutting the Presidential Birthday Cake

The solution to dividing the cake into 8 equal-sized pieces using only three cuts is to take advantage of the three dimensionality of the cake. After cutting into halves both lengthwise and widthwise, follow up by cutting in half depthwise. Out will come eight equal pieces - hardly a case of jerrymandering!

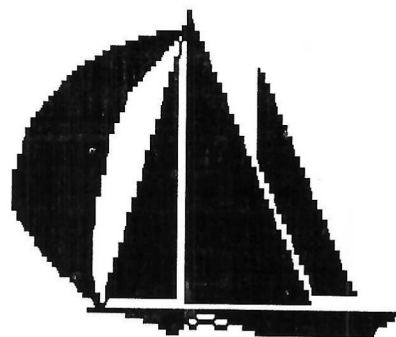
## March's Amuser What's So Odd About This?

While asking how I could help my daughter, Bethy, with her homework tonight, she related that dividing decimal numbers was somewhat confusing to her. My fatherly instincts came to the fore as I told her I thought I could help clear up the matter. I asked her to give me an example of the kind of problem she was unsure about. Bethy took pencil in hand and started writing. "Twenty and one hundredth," she said out of the blue, "divided by four and

sixty-three hundredths. Now, how do you solve that?"

I first pointed out to her that she should take a look at the general size of the numbers and make a stab at what whole numbers the solution was likely to fall between. She rightly guessed between 3 and 5. Then I showed her how I was taught to move the decimal point of the dividend and divisor equal numbers of places to the right, until the divisor was a whole number, and how to put the decimal point for the quotient directly above the resulting position in the dividend.

Then I pointed out to her that the rest was just what she'd already been doing before - whole number division. She set about her task, and in no time had the answer computed to three decimal places. When she stopped, we both gazed in amazement. Why?



*Smooth sailing in March winds*



## **One Family's Opinion on School District Unification**

*by Eve and Jerry Lerman*

*(Well, last month we gave fair warning that we wanted to have an article dealing with this topic. Unfortunately we had no contributions this month, so you'll only get to see US going out on a limb here. We're not much for public speaking, but here goes ...)*

The feelings we have about building a Foster City High School through the creation of a separate FC School District are a little mixed, but our opinion is that feelings are not the basis for making good decisions. Yes, it is a wonderful idea to have a community building, a sports area, and a use for an idle, ugly piece of land. The high school edifice will provide all that, and will create a comfortable place for our teenagers to attend school, only a stone's throw from our homes. It is a wonderful, EXPENSIVE idea, however. The question is, will the expense be worth it?

What are the expenses? First off, there's clearly a substantial bond issue required to put the building up. That may be enough to dissuade a lot of us, but since there are some perceptible benefits to having a local high school (our property values might go up enough to more than recoup

the increased taxes, for instance), let's not dismiss the proposition merely because of this cost. Let's look deeper.

Another expense is the administration of another school district. Our present high schools are overseen by a staff of finite size that costs a known amount. What will a new administration cost us? It depends, but potentially more than we pay per pupil today. There are, after all, economies of scale that we're forgoing when we shrink our school district: similar amounts of work must be done to comply with state regulations, but will be paid for by a smaller taxable population. Noting also that the sum of the separate San Mateo and Foster City district expenses will exceed those of the combined district today, one can only ask whether we can afford to pay more for educational administration in times as tough as these?

Another expense will be the unknown labor costs - how will the teachers' union bargain with our new district? Will it be tougher on our affluent community that has gone out on a limb for autonomy than it has been on the combined district? It certainly could choose to be. Our administrators and our School Board will be fairly new to the game and quite unwilling to allow a strike to mar their first years

in office. They may therefore cave in to teacher union demands which are slightly more than fair.

Another cost is not monetary in the immediate sense: our students being shortchanged by all this. I believe a Foster City High School will become excellent - it might even be so immediately at conception - but it's certainly possible if not probable that it will be some time before that's truly the case. In the meantime, we will have abandoned schools that definitely are excellent. San Mateo High recently won a national award for excellence, in fact.

Today's schools are more heterogeneous than Foster City High School will be, and there may be a cost to this. Our students today are exposed to a broader assortment of classmates, from a wider range of socio-economic backgrounds, and are preparing better for the "real world" than they would in the relative shelter of a FC High School.

Let's drop the costs argument now and look again at what the perceived benefits of a FC Unified School District are. One big one is "local control" - we determine our destiny. Well, first off, we're not all of one voice now, nor will we ever be, so this will not mean we'll get what we want just because we have our own district.

It DOES mean that those pesky San Mateo-ans will not be able to meddle in our affairs. But had the supporters of this proposition spent only half the energy they've expended on this campaign to instead rally Foster City parents and residents to actively work with the existing district, I imagine they could have accomplished a great deal more - including possibly a Foster City High School under more salubrious circumstances -- under the aegis of the existing district. "Local control" sounds a lot more politically potent than mere "lobbying and negotiation," but the fact is that there's never a way to get along without the latter, and the former is a fake.

The other benefits for our teenagers (shorter commutes, easier participation in after-school activities, a local community center) we believe are all valid, feel they would be nice-to-haves, but fear are too expensive under the current plan to earn our support.

So, if not now, when? When does it make sense to bite the bullet and pay more to provide a better education for our youngsters? Well, "Sixty Minutes" had a pretty shocking story to tell last Sunday night, about how \$1.2 billion in Kansas City has created beautiful, up-to-date educational facilities, well-paid instructors, and declining performance in students.

The reason why so much money failed to do the job appears to be a simple lack of family involvement in education. That appears to be the key to making education work better: caring parents, *not* money. We had all better pay attention to the message if we want our schools to be superior. Bringing the school district "home" won't do it, nor will any amount of additional spending, unless we're talking about spending TIME ... with our kids.

**Your comments,  
criticisms,  
recommendations,  
witticisms  
are all welcome and  
needed. Please  
submit your contributions  
for the next issue  
by April 3rd  
to 344 Bowfin. Thanks!**

### **Information Superhighway?**

Are any of you driving on the I-S? If so, please take note that the Bowfin Inquirer can be reached on Compuserve at address 73621,1200 - under the name Jerome Lerman. If you'd like to send your contributions that way, we'd love to hear from you! One idea for an article would be to tell about how useful (or not) you've found the computer service, and relating tricks you've found to make it more fun or easier. (Here's a chance to make Al Gore proud of you!)

### **Coming Next Month**

A report from the Audubon PTA's February meeting which dealt with earthquake preparedness. Your fearless reporter (actually this does bring a little bit of fear to the fore for her), Eve Lerman, promises to put her notes on safety measures we should all be taking.





# The Bowfin Inquirer



April, 1994

## Practice For Baseball

*By Jacob Lerman*

Any kids or adults who would want to practice baseball can meet at 344 Bowfin St., Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 P.M. Kids' parents should come. Bring a mitt. Bring equipment. Bring a hat. We will go to Marlin Park and come back at 3:30 P.M. Refreshments will be at our house after practice.

## Schindler's List Survivor in Foster City

Ze'ev Kedem, a Holocaust survivor saved by Oskar Schindler (from the movie you might remember him as the boy who hid in the latrine at the work camp), will be speaking at Peninsula Sinai Congregation, 499 Boothbay, on Thursday, April 7th, at 7:30 P.M. The event is the Peninsula's sixth annual ecumenical, community-wide Yom Hashoah (Day of Holocaust Remembrance) service, coordinated by Peninsula Churches, Synagogues, and community organizations. The program will include music, readings, and a candle-lighting service by Holocaust survivors. For more information, call your church or synagogue.

## Audubon P.T.A. Garage Sale

On April 23rd, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., the sale of the century (would you believe decade? how about weekend?) will take place at Audubon School, 841 Gull. You'll find bargains galore strewn throughout the kindergarten playground area. Pick up a few and help out a good cause!

If you'd care to unload YOUR garages with salable items, contributions are welcomed. Contact Millie Cydzik, 349-5911, for information. Contributions are tax deductible for NEXT year. (Note that the deadline for contributions - April 15th - coincides with another deadline!)

## 6.6, 7.1, 8.3 Are You Ready?

*by Eve Lerman*

Of course, all of us hope THE BIG ONE never occurs, but we also recognize the need to be prepared - just in case. Los Angeles' recent experiences, and our own back in 1989, have made this abundantly clear. Dave Scardigli of the Foster City Fire Department recently spoke to the PTA of Audubon School on the topic of preparedness. Here's a brief summary of his address.

In terms of our house and utilities, we need to know where the shut-offs are for both gas and electricity. However, we should not turn off the gas unless we smell gas, the dials are spinning, or the house is severely damaged. Why not? Because we don't want to be on PG&E's waiting list for 2-3 months to have our service restored! While anyone, including the fire department, can turn OFF the gas, ONLY PG&E can turn it ON.

Electricity should be turned off only if there is burning or arcing that you can see, if the building collapses, if there is a distinct odor, if the area around the switches or plugs is blackened or hot to the touch, or if the complete loss of power is accompanied by the smell of burning material. Water should be shut off if there is a severe leak inside the building or if a building has collapsed or suffered severe structural damage.

Where should you look for the shut-offs? The gas and electrical shut-offs are usually inside the garage or in the "alley" (area beside our house) ; appliance shut-offs are on the gas pipes connected to the appliances, usually behind the appliances. The inside water shut-off is usually in the garage or alley, in line with the plate of the outside shut-off, on a riser pipe. It is usually a red or yellow wheel. Remember that your hot water heater is a source of water.

Where should you go in case of an earthquake? If you are extremely knowledgeable about the construction of your home, a doorway may be all right - but if the wall is not loadbearing, you may be sorry. Instead, get under something strong and solid, a good table or desk for instance. Duck, cover and hold on. If you are outside, stay there, away from windows.

What do you need, to prepare for an earthquake? Get about 3 days' worth of bottled water, flashlights and batteries, and cash (ATMs could be out of commission for a while). These may be stored in the trunk of your car, but a more practical place for some of these items might be in baggies in the trash cans outside your home - in case the garage suffers damage. Portable radios are also handy. Finally, establish ahead of time with the rest of your family how to escape, how to contact one another, and where to meet in case of any emergency.

We all hope such preparations will prove to be only that, and need never be put to use. If we all take these steps, however, it should be comforting to know that when an emergency arises, we on Bowfin Street will be prepared.

## Name That Source

Here's this month's quiz - notable quotables on the subject of our current month. Can you match the authors/titles to these quotations familiar to Bartlett? The year when each quote appeared is given as an additional clue.

### *Quotations*

1. Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote  
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote. (c. 1387)
2. O! how this spring of love resembleth  
The uncertain glory of an April day! (1594-1595)
3. Her beams bemocked the sultry main,  
Like April hoarfrost spread;  
But where the ship's huge shadow lay,  
The charmed water burnt away  
A still and awful red. (1798)
4. Lady through whose profound and fragile lips  
the sweet small clumsy feet of April came  
into the ragged meadow of my soul. (1926)
5. When I am dead and over me bright April  
Shakes out her rain-drenched hair,  
Though you should lean above me broken-hearted,  
I shall not care. (c.1920)
6. By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world. (1837)
7. If you were April's lady,  
And I were lord in May. (1866)
8. Oh, to be in England now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England sees, some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England -- now! (1845)

9. Thirty days hath November,  
April, June, and September,  
February hath twenty-eight alone,  
And all the rest have thirty-one. (1562)
10. April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go.  
(1931)

### *Authors*

- A. Algernon Charles Swinburne, *A Match*
- B. Christopher Morley, *John Mistletoe*
- C. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*
- D. Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Poems*
- E. e.e. cummings, *if i have made, my lady, intricate*
- F. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Ancient Mariner*
- G. Richard Grafton, *Chronicles of England*
- H. Sara Teasdale, *I Shall Not Care*
- I. William Shakespeare, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*
- J. Robert Browning, *Home Thoughts, from Abroad*

### **Solution to Last Month's Puzzle: What So Odd About This?**

The peculiar thing about Bethy's randomly created division problem was that as we began solving it, the quotient appeared to follow an unusual pattern. The problem again was, 20.01 divided by 4.63. The solution to four significant digits was 4.321. See the pattern?

How unusual is it to see a pattern like this emerge from a random problem selection? Well, if we knew in advance that the pattern that we'd look at later and think significant had to be specifically a 4, followed by a 3, then a 2, and a 1, the odds would be 8,999 to 1 against us (there are only 9,000 possibilities here, since leading zeroes would have been ignored).

If, however, we would have been equally impressed with any sequence of the type (N),(N-1),(N-2), and (N-3) (for example, if 9, 8, 7, 6 would have been just as startling to us), then there were specifically 7 such possibilities out of 9,000. If we would have been impressed also had any of the three other possible - and easily noticed - sequential patterns shown up ( [(N), (N+1), (N+2), (N+3)], [(N), (N+2), (N+4), (N+6)] , and [(N), (N-2), (N-4), (N-6)] ), then another  $7 + 4 + 3 = 14$  outcomes could have "made our day." In total, then, only 21 times in 9,000

would we have expected to see a pattern emerge in the quotient, meaning that the odds were 2,993 to 7 against it occurring. Not the same as winning the Lotto Jackpot, perhaps, but still quite unlikely.

## **Unification's After-Math**

*by Jerry Lerman*

The headline on a recent distribution by Citizens for Unification (CforU) was "*\$3.5 Million Taxpayer Rip-Off?*". The flyer takes aim at Superintendent Richard Damelio's quotation that the San Mateo School District will lose \$9.9 million in revenue, while shedding only \$6.4 in expenses. Both Damelio and CforU turn this into a subtraction problem, and find that the \$3.5 million difference is, indeed, a problem. Damelio sees it as a loss for the San Mateo School Districts, while CforU believes it is a case of Foster City tax money flowing as a "profit" into the hands of San Mateo's School Administrators. Which should we believe?

I suggest that we think about the problem that these numbers pose: they tell us nothing about "fixed" and "variable" costs, and these are the relevant costs for determining whether we have been underserved by our tax dollars. In particular, if the San Mateo high schools were to lose 1/3 of their students, should we expect that their total costs would drop also by 1/3? I doubt that

maintenance expenses would drop by that much - they're relatively fixed. I think utilities would also cost just about as much. In fact, even teacher salaries might be relatively sticky due to union contracts and the desire to retain courses in the curriculum even if class sizes were only 2/3 as large as they were previously. There are indeed a lot of fixed costs in running a high school - and economies of scale in having more students rather than fewer.

I imagine Mr. Damelio's people put such thinking into their estimate of cost reductions and therefore found that only a fraction of their expenses would go away with the loss of Foster City's high school students. Indeed, if the three schools were to be collapsed so that only two of them remained open, perhaps then costs could drop proportionately with the loss of revenue, but I doubt that Damelio's estimators tackled that complex alternative.

Now, how did CforU come up with their alarmist view of fiscal improprieties? They took all Mr. Damelio's estimates to be relevant only to the Elementary School District, where virtually all the relevant costs are variable ones. Most Foster City kids attend one of the FC schools, rather than ones in San Mateo, so to that extent they would be right: a lot of the costs of operating Foster City Elementary schools should vanish if the schools are pulled from San Mateo's

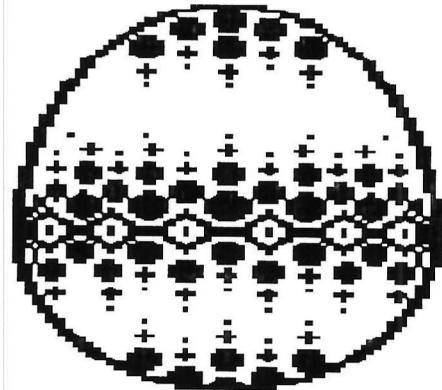
Elementary district.

Well, did Mr. Damelio's numbers apply to the Elementary School district or to the total of the Elementary and High School districts? I can't say. The flyer took the quote out of context and then interpreted it to apply only to the elementary schools. But the degree to which it reacted, and I might say over-reacted, to the quotation suggests to me that it may have cared more about making hay than making sense of it.

I have my doubts that we have had a serious mis-appropriation of more than one third of our tax dollars, as CforU has concluded. If so, who has gotten rich here - and who has gotten poor? Our children's education is not suffering, and our school administrators are not moving to the Caymans. The burden of proof must lie with CforU, which has leapt to some grand conclusions with only the flimsiest of supporting evidence.

## MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

No, it's not really an emergency. We'd just like to see a wider assortment of voices in the Bowfin Inquirer, and I'm sure you would, too. I've gotten my wife and seven-year old son to join in this month, but there's got to be more of you interested in making a point, sharing a story or poem, or simply introducing yourselves. Please stop by some evening to visit (344 Bowfin) or call (572-9153) so we can chat and perhaps discuss what you might contribute to the paper. Our deadline for next month will be May 1st.



*Happy Easter !*





# The Bowfin Inquirer



May, 1994

## Thank You and "Sayonara" from the Yamadas

We will be returning to Japan on June 9th.

We moved to Bowfin less than a year ago, but feel very much at home in this community.

We are sad to have to say "Sayonara" so soon. Our memories will include our first block party, the pumpkin contest, and the Valentine's party. It was special to us that our children could enjoy sports with so many friends right in front of our house. It's been so good to "Come Home" to Bowfin Street.

You have been wonderful neighbors and friends. We wish you health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Yamada, Takeshi, Naoki, and Chihiro, at 320 Bowfin.

**P.S. We will have a garage sale on Saturday, June 4th, from 8 AM to 3 PM. Please stop by !!!**

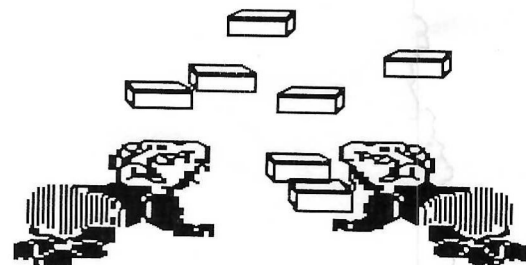
## Letter to the Inquirer

I enjoy the Inquirer, and appreciate the time and thought that go into it. Thanks to your communique, I have been able to find the

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-Harmon Brown ( 345 )



*How about a block party?*



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This month the pilgrims find themselves between Plymouth Rock and a hard place on their way to florid-a. Can you help them by finding the flower(s) that best fill in the blanks? It might require some back-petaling and stamen-a to tiptoe through the two-meanings.

1. They're usually found between aisles:  
— — — — —

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3. You might guess this one in the not too distant — — — — —.

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6. A child might find these by the pocketful:  
— — — — — (plural)

7. The young one in charge of propelling the rowboat? — — — — —

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(Because the Pilgrims are in a hurry, answers can be found on the following page.)

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Incidentally, one of the neighbors liked this quiz so much he asked to have his paper "graded". He did great, scoring 80%. (Better than the puzzler himself would have done!)

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(Hold up to a mirror!)

1. ROSE ("row")  
2. HYACINTH ("hivz Cynth")  
3. FUCHSIA ("fure")  
4. IRIS  
5. GERANIUM (G + URANIUM)  
6. POSIES  
7. ORCHID ("or kid")  
8. LILAC ("lie lack")  
9. VIOLETS ("violence")  
10. CHRYSANTHEMUM  
("Kris and the mum")



# The Bowfin Inquirer



May, 1994

## Thank You and "Sayonara" from the Yamadas

We will be returning to Japan on June 9th.

We moved to Bowfin less than a year ago, but feel very much at home in this community.

We are sad to have to say "Sayonara" so soon. Our memories will include our first block party, the pumpkin contest, and the Valentine's party. It was special to us that our children could enjoy sports with so many friends right in front of our house. It's been so good to "Come Home" to Bowfin Street.

You have been wonderful neighbors and friends. We wish you health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Yamada, Takeshi, Naoki, and Chihiro, at 320 Bowfin.

**P.S. We will have a garage sale on  
Saturday, June 4th, from 8 AM to 3 PM.  
Please stop by !!!**

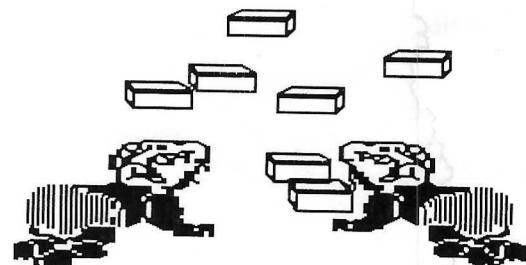
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("Kris and the mum")



## 320 Bowfin: Garage Sale on June 4th

Remember that the Yamadas are  
having a garage sale this  
Saturday. Pick up an item or two,  
and bid them a fond farewell!



*"Dhth, you said to wear bow ties!"*

Deadline for Next Issue is July 1st.

Please drop off your contributions at the Lermans' (344)

or

phone us with your ideas ( 572 - 9153)

Thanks!





# The Bowfin Inquirer



July, 1994

## BOWFIN BARBECUE - JULY 30th (5:30-)

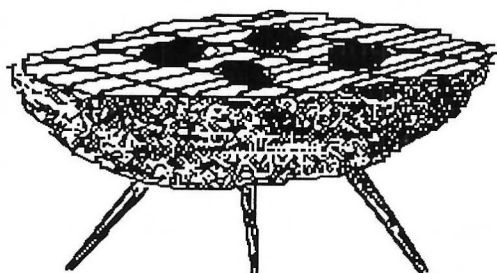
Let's make the last Saturday of July a special one for our neighborhood, a day to fill the street with delicious aromas and friendly conversation.

Attached is a list of the typical food and other items needed for such an event. ( Feel free to fill in the "other" categories with ideas we didn't think of.)

By Saturday July 16th, please fill it out with what you could bring (food: 1st and 2nd choices; accessories: any), and drop it off at the Lermans' (344). (Or call us at 572-9153).

On the 17th, we'll put together the results. If enough of us have signed up, we'll notify each of the respondents that the BBQ is on, along with the specific item(s) to provide and the quantity needed. Then on the 30th, starting at 5:30PM we'll meet in some adjoining front yards/driveways to partake of the feast.

(If it appears that too few of us are able to participate, we'll try to think up a viable "plan B"!)



## JULY? OR DO YOU TELL THE TRUTH?

Of the following ten statements about our home town, only 5 are true. Can you spot the lies/inaccuracies? (Answers and corrections next month.)

1. FC boasts more than 100 acres of park and open space land.

2. Powerboats are allowed in the FC lagoon system over holiday weekends.

3. In 1992, the FC Fire Department responded to more than 2,000 alarms, most of which were calls related to fires.

4. The Beautification Committee is one of Foster City's seven standing Citizen Advisory Committees.

5. FC's regularly scheduled City Council meetings are broadcast live on channel 22.

6. The average temperature for the year in FC is 58 degrees.

7. The Chamber of Commerce makes available a directory of about 140 local clubs and organizations.

8. A planning permit is required for almost all exterior changes to any residential, commercial or industrial building in FC.

9. The average household income in FC is less than that of San Mateo County as a whole.

10. FC's industrial area is home to approximately 650 firms.

Deadline for August Contributions: August 1st

## **Solution to "June Junk"**

- 1. ALLYSON**
- 2. BUG**
- 3. MEMORIAL**
- 4. JUNEAU**
- 5. FLAG DAY**
- 6. CLEAVER**
- 7. NORMANDY**
- 8. GRADUATION**
- 9. JUNIORS**
- 10. JUNIPER**

Special Message: **ENJOY YOUR SUMMER**

### **Vacation Alert**

by Jerry Lerman

Recently my in-laws returned to L.A. from a marvelous 6-week vacation, and were shocked to find that a home break-in sometime during their absence had cost them a lifetime's worth of collectibles and family treasures. Neither the neighbors nor the police in their "neighborhood watch" community had seen anything to suggest a problem had arisen, so particulars about the crime are sparse. The crook or crooks made off with virtually every valuable that was portable, even stealing a piece of luggage so they could tote more of their loot. Left behind were the fake jewelry, the second-rate imported rug, and the bulkiest items, but no fingerprints. These were pros.

What precautions had my in-laws taken before leaving home? They'd told their neighbor across the street that they would be away. They'd locked doors and windows, stopped mail and newspaper service. These are the typical safeguards everyone should take, but in this case they were clearly not enough.

There are some things I believe we can learn from their plight.

You cannot count upon preventing every break-in; even well-guarded places can be victimized. However, if your house contains valuables very dear to you, do your best to protect them. A security system creates a strong disincentive to a would-be burglar. A house-sitter might do almost as well - and is less likely to issue a false alarm.

While it would be nice to protect ourselves with insurance, not everything that is valuable is insurable at a cost we can afford. So if those jewels are not insured, consider putting them in safekeeping (e.g., a safe deposit box) during the trip.

Not every uninsured valuable that is stolen is a complete loss; such items can be used to offset income on tax returns. However, you must be able to support your claims as to their values. Indispensable to this end is to keep (in a safe place)

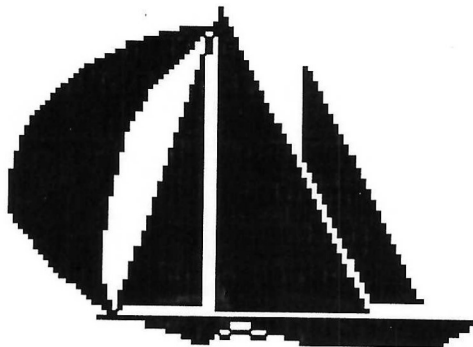
Deadline for August Contributions: August 1st

photographs/videos of those special items of yours. Describing a piece of jewelry and obtaining an appraisal is a near impossible task without photographic evidence.

Fortunately, Bowfin Street has not been a venue for burglars, and we hope it will remain that way. In case it should not, however, we can mitigate our losses through some simple preventive actions. I know my in-laws wish they had done so themselves.

### Boat for Sale

After years of enjoyment, the Frakts (348) have decided to part with their Bayliner pleasure boat. If you know a family looking to buy one, you might have them reach Arkady or Rosa Frakt at 573-1642.



### Thomas Jefferson's Legacy

*Quotations from the author of the Declaration of Independence.*

A lively and lasting sense of filial duty is more effectually impressed on the mind of a son or daughter by reading *King Lear*, than by all the dry volumes of ethics, and divinity, that ever were written. - 1771

The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. - 1774

Ignorance is preferable to error; and he is less remote from the truth who believes nothing, than he who believes what is wrong. - 1781

The Newtonian principle of gravitation is now more firmly established, on the basis of reason, than it would be were the government to step in, and to make it an article of necessary faith. Reason and experiment have been indulged, and error has fled before them. - 1781

The republican is the only form of government which is not eternally at open or secret war with the rights of mankind. - 1790

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government. - 1809

## Barbecue List

Please mark your 1st-2nd-3rd choices for things you can provide at the barbecue potluck.

Return the form to 344 by July 16th or call Eve or Jerry Lerman at 572-9153. Thanks!.

### Meats

Hot Dogs  
Hamburgers  
Chicken  
Other

### Salads

Green  
Cole Slaw  
Potato Salad  
Bean  
Other

### Drinks

Lemonade  
Canned Soft Drinks  
Tea/Coffee  
Beer/Wine (if we confirm that these are permitted by city ordinance)  
Other

### Miscellaneous

Buns  
Chips + Dip  
Crackers + Cheeses  
Raw Vegetables + Dip  
Cooked Vegetables  
Condiments  
Marshmallows/S'mores fixin's  
Other

### Equipment

Outdoor Table  
Folding Chairs  
Plastic Tableware  
Paper Plates & Cups  
Napkins  
Other



## Bowfin Barbecue Brings Beaucoup Bouquets

About a dozen Bowfin families feasted at the backyard party held at Bob and Margot Robertson's (316) last Saturday. Attendees included three recent arrivals to Bowfin: Kevin and Cindy Standefer and their son, Josh (300), Joe Downs and Lu Rehling and their sons, Asa and Cooper (320), and Anthony Scaggs and Marcia Applegate (365).

Foods partaken of consisted of prettily arranged fresh vegetables, nachos, fruit and pasta salads, hamburgers, hot dogs, hot-crossed buns (that is to say, I let a few get a bit too crisp!), beverages, watermelon, cookies, and a gorgeous cake emblazoned "Welcome Bowfiners." The adults among us engaged in warm and lively conversation, while our young ones had a great time running about the yard and cul-de-sac.

By the time evening began to fall and the familiar Bowfin winds began to gather, we had all eaten our fill, met some familiar and unfamiliar faces, and had a very good time. Some of us spoke not only of



making this an annual event, but also of planning another street event during the early weeks of December.

Thanks to all the families who helped make this a success!



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## **We're the Andersens**

*Steve, Lori, Wendy, and Ginger (376 Bowfin)*

by Lori Andersen

House re-modeling, computers, and sewing are the adult hobbies. The girls are student athletes at Aragon High School. They keep us busy attending various sporting events - both theirs and their friends. We've laughed about it many times as we sit through marathon basketball tournaments that we've spent more time in High School as parents than we did as high school students!

This coming January through March, if you want some exciting family entertainment, just go to the high school basketball games. It costs less than \$10 for a family to attend the Friday night varsity games. Girls play at about 6:00 PM, boys start at about 8:00. The Times has the listings of who plays where.

## **Experienced Pet/House/Child Sitters**

Capable teens with references available this summer, while you get away from it all!

Call Wendy and Ginger, 578-1416

## **Andersens' Anatomy Brain Teaser**

Can you find ten 3-letter words which are common names for body parts? (No slang!)

*Answers on Page 3*

---

## **Answers to Last Month's Quiz**

The five true statements were 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10.

The "lies" and the correct answers were:

2 (Powerboats are NEVER allowed in the lagoons)

3 (Only 1,805 calls answered by the fire department, only 114 of which related to fires)

4 (There are 8 standing Citizen Advisory Committees)

7 (There are about 70 organizations in the Chamber of Commerce directory), and

9 (FC average income exceeds San Mateo County's average: \$60,462 to \$54,300)

## The Gossip Gatherer

Discoveries from the recent barbecue and elsewhere include:

Some of our new neighbors' are acquainted indirectly: The brother of Marcia Applegate (365) works with Kevin Standefer at the United Airlines facility.

One of our neighbors will be off to Washington, D.C., in a couple months, to see her cousin sworn in as a Supreme Court justice.

The Downs brothers, Asa and Cooper, who have just arrived here from Park City, Utah, are fine young chess players. They competed and placed highly in this year's U.S. Elementary School Championship in San Jose.

The Norris' (321) have completed negotiations for their new home, and will be leaving Bowfin mid-month to live in sunny Cupertino. We won't soon forget their hospitality at last year's Christmas caroling event and this year's Valentine's Day Getaway. Thanks so much for all you've done to help make our street a neighborhood. Bow'n Voyage!

---

## Solutions to Andersens' Anatomy

LIP TOE JAW LEG GUM  
RIB ARM EAR HIP EYE

## Puns of the Worst Order

*(from "The Complete Pun Book", by Art Moger)*

Show me Eve's perfume, and I'll show you an Adam balm.

Show me a man convicted of two crimes, and I'll show you a compound sentence.

Show me a singing beetle, and I'll show you a humbug.

Show me a cross between a cannon and a bell, and I'll show you a boomerang.

Show me a workman who dismantles a roof, and I'll show you an eavesdropper.

Show me a fowl with an artificial leg, and I'll show you a lame duck amendment.

Show me a man who's afraid of Christmas, and I'll show you a Noel Coward.

Show me a filibustering senator, and I'll show you a figure of speech.

Show me Muhammed Ali's safe-deposit box, and I'll show you Cassius' cash can.

Show me a manhole at a street intersection, and I'll show you a connoisseur.

Have a family biography, news item, or just a piece of publishable gossip for our next issue? Please write it up and deliver it to the Bowfin Inquirer (344), or phone us at 572-9153 by September 1st.





# The Bowfin Inquirer



September, 1994

## Try to Remember . . . (That Kind of September)

When did these September events take place?  
Match each event to the correct year.

1. U.S. troops in Vietnam reached 300,000 and suffered a record 970 casualties, 145 dead in one week.

2. The New York Times published the erroneous news that 72,000 Russians, traveling via the Arctic port of Archangel, had reached the French lines on the Western Front.

3. California was admitted as a free State.

4. The first loan was made to the U.S., for \$191,608.81, to pay the salaries of the President and members of Congress.

5. President McKinley was shot in Buffalo, N.Y., by Leon Czolgosz, an American-born anarchist.

6. Fifteen hundred armed police killed 31 prisoners and 9 hostages while retaking control of Attica State Prison in New York State.

7. The elected Marxist government of Salvador Allende was overthrown by a military junta in Chile.

8. President Ford granted Richard Nixon a "full, free and absolute pardon" for any crimes he may have committed.

9. The first of the televised Kennedy-Nixon debates was seen by 8 million Americans.

10. Mussolini was rescued by a daring glider landing in the mountains of central Italy and flown to Munich.

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| A. 1960 | E. 1966 | H. 1850 |
| B. 1914 | F. 1789 | I. 1973 |
| C. 1943 | G. 1974 | J. 1901 |
| D. 1971 |         |         |

## September Scavenger Hunt

Here's a contest for all the kids on the block, ages 14 or younger. First prize is a Baskin-Robbins sundae, and all runners-up will be rewarded with a single scoop junior cone.

Each contestant must collect the following 8 items from somewhere on Bowfin Street and deliver them to the Lermans at 344 by 6:00 P.M., Saturday, September 24th. The winner will be selected at that time by random drawing among all the contestants who deliver all eight items. Prizes will be distributed at that time. (At 7:30 PM that evening, those who can attend will meet at Baskin Robbins to partake of their winnings!) Happy Hunting!

### Items to Obtain

1. A grocery receipt
2. A brown button
3. A pencil 4 inches or shorter
4. A 35-mm film container
5. A key which is of no further use to anyone
6. A page from a newspaper dated sometime in August, 1994
7. An eraser
8. A used theater or game ticket

# **Summertime Fancies and Finances**

*by  
Daggerel King*

How we *spent* our summer vacation!  
We'd traveled to gaze at the hills.  
But gift shops and rest stops  
Outnumbered the treetops  
And the mountains appeared on our bills!

We paid to Discover  
(and VISA and Master!) -  
Our travelers' checks had egressed.  
Added together they'd reached quite a summit,  
something like Mount Everest.

Our next summer trip should be something  
more level.

A seaside resort - *that* should suit!  
We'll stay at the beach,  
keep our costs within reach,  
and turn landward to see all the beauts.

## **Deadline for Contributions**

**to the October Issue:**

**October 1st - 6:00 PM**

**Please deliver to 344 Bowfin  
or call us at 572-9153**

**Here's your chance to ...**

**Share opinions**

**Disseminate information**

**Display your creativity!**

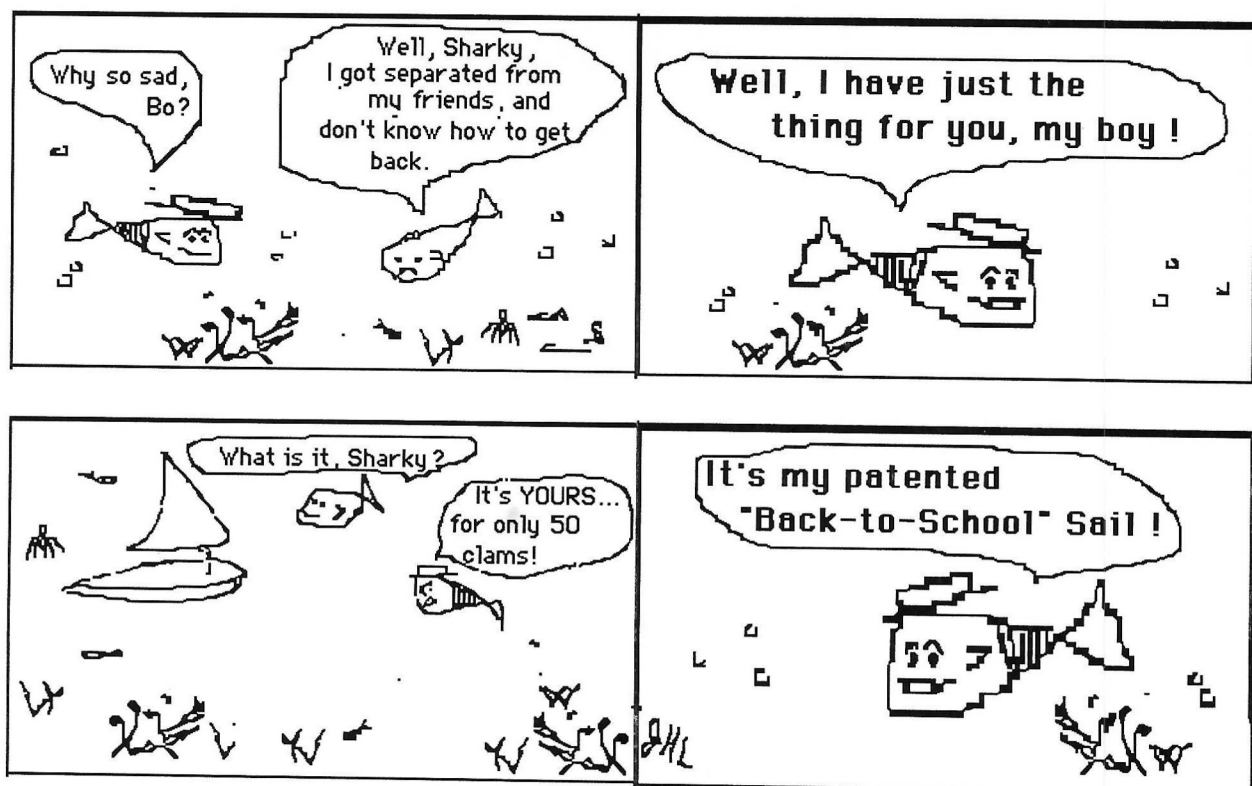
**We look forward to hearing  
from you!**

**- Eve and Jerry Lerman**

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## Scavenger Hunt Winner

While response to last month's Scavenger Hunt was a disappointment, our sole entrant did manage to amass the eight required items, and did so by visiting other households on the block. Congratulations to Jacob Lerman, who feasted upon his prize, a Boom Chocka Laka Laka sundae, while his proud father looked on.

What will we do with the odd assortment of paraphernalia gathered in the hunt? Well, one idea was to create a Bowfin Street "time capsule" so that years from now the occupants of this wonderful street can learn about how their predecessors lived.

If anyone here is interested in putting together such a time capsule, which I would imagine would be the first of its kind EVER, please get in touch with Jerry Lerman at 344 (or phone 572-9153) to discuss how we might put one together. *(And where to bury it so that dogs don't dig it up prematurely!)*

## Solutions to Last Month's Puzzle "Try to Remember"

1. E (1966) 6. D (1971)
2. B (1914) 7. I (1973)
3. H (1850) 8. G (1974)
4. F (1789) 9. A (1960)
5. J (1901) 10. C (1943)

## Pumpkin Carving Contest

### Part II: The Reprise

Last year's contest was so successful that we thought it would make good sense to try it once more.

This year we have some talented new kids on the block, sure to know some crazy techniques for jack o' lantern sculpting. In addition, many of our prize winners from last year are back and want another chance to display the form that set the standards last year!

As with last year we will offer prizes for the Funniest, Scariest, Goofiest, etc. Judging will be done by voice vote. Cookies and soft drinks will also be provided.

**Date: October 30**

**Time: 3:00-5:00 PM**

**Place: 344 Bowfin**

**What to Bring:**

Pumpkin

Carving utensil

A supervising adult (if under 8 yrs old)

Your creativity

(Parents: Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please give the Lermans a call if you can help with purchases, supervision, organization, etc. (572-9153) Thanks!)



## October Puzzler

October Headline:

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccc} \overline{5} & \overline{6} & \overline{8} & \overline{4} & \overline{1} & \overline{14} & \overline{2} & \overline{6} & \overline{3} & & \overline{10} & \overline{11} & \overline{12} & \overline{9} & \overline{12} & \overline{13} \\ & & \overline{9} & \overline{3} & & & \overline{7} & \overline{13} & & & & & & & & & \end{array}$$

Has inflation hit the witches' coven? Find out by filling in the headline above.

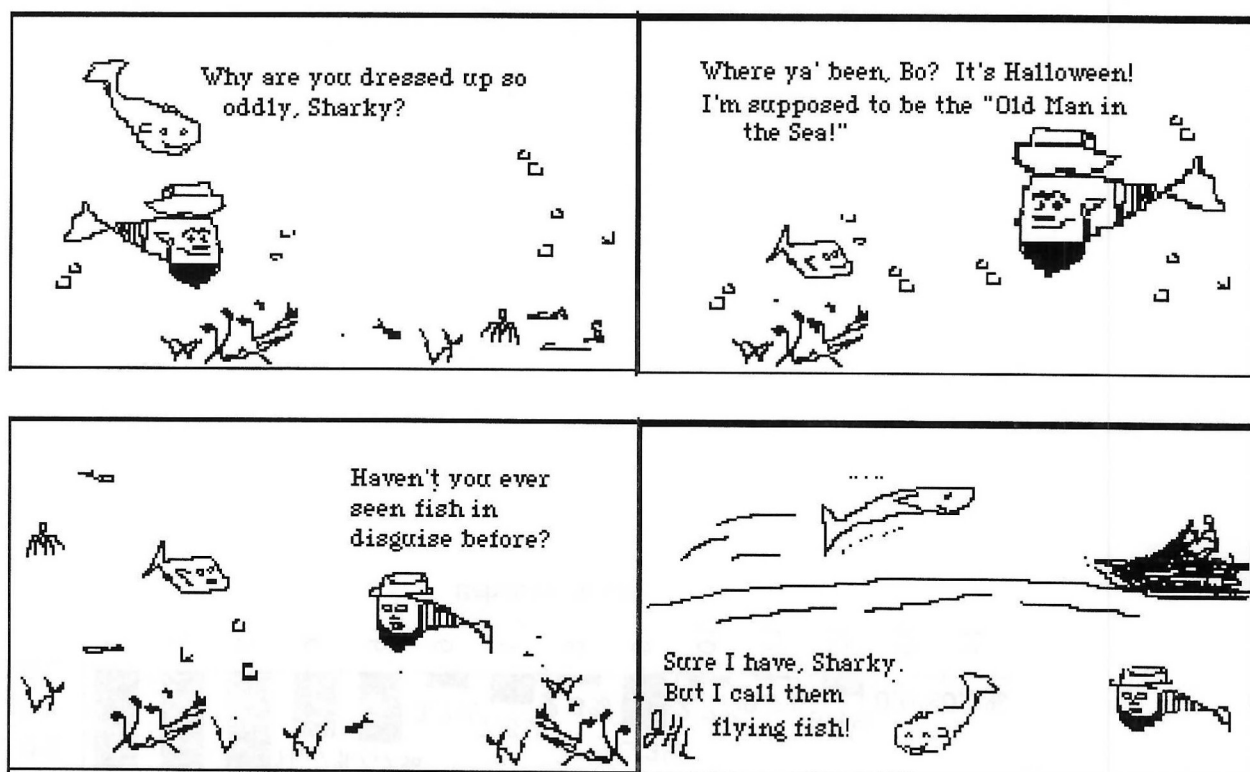
First, fill in the blanks for the clued words. Then fill in the headline by arranging the bracket-enclosed letters according to their word numbers (you'll have to figure out which goes where when there are two letters in one word).

1. \_ [\_] \_ \_ O C T = to put together in an unusual way
2. O C T [\_] \_ = a musical composition
3. O C T \_ \_ [\_] [\_] = an eight-sided figure
4. [\_] O C \_ \_ T = a piece of jewelry
5. \_ \_ O C [\_] \_ T = to knit with a hooked needle
6. O \_ [\_] \_ [\_] C T = to perform too hammily
7. O C \_ [\_] \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_ = a line of work
8. O C \_ \_ [\_] T = matters involving the supernatural
9. [\_] [\_] O B E R = a peanut
10. \_ O B [\_] E R = a wholesaler
11. [\_] O B E R \_ \_ = David \_\_\_\_\_, California legislator
12. \_ O [\_] B \_ E R [\_] = a Mexican hat
13. \_ O B E [\_] [\_] \_ \_ R \_ \_ = French revolutionist, 1758-1794
14. [\_] O B \_ \_ \_ E R = more unsteady

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## What's With Professional Sports?

by Jerry Lerman

Everyone in the major papers is writing about how the professional players and team owners have really messed up. The owners are suddenly so concerned about the viability of their franchises that they have taken a tack that has steered them very close to complete inviability. Meanwhile the players are hard-pressed to explain why they are so concerned about maintaining salaries which, if they were to be cut in half through salary capping, would still put them in the upper one-half of one percent of all wage earners.

One important question we could be asking is whether we, the fans, share the blame. Isn't it possible that we have permitted professional sports to figure too prominently in our lives? Indeed, they provide entertainment value and opportunities for our families to go out together, but there are alternatives that cost less and probably would do more for us. We pay high prices for our sports addictions, and it's not only in the cost of tickets and hot dogs - it's the cost of physical, social, and cultural atrophy.

What if we discovered that hiking in regional parks, visiting friends, exploring museums, reading books, and volunteering were better ways of devoting our energies? Wouldn't the owners have to lower prices to draw (some of) us back into the fold? Might not the players take cuts in pay to keep their industries afloat? Wouldn't the world of sports, and the rest of the world as well, become a little less out of joint?

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Deadline for Contributions to November Issue: Nov. 1st



## Carving Out An Annual Niche?

*Kids Cut Out for Halloween Fest*

The 2nd Annual Bowfin Street Pumpkin Carving Contest was held Sunday, October 30th, with seven youngsters participating. Several others came to look on and voice their acclaim for the entrants' works of art.

The categories this year, and our Bowfin Street winners, were Happiest (Jacob Lerman), Scariest (Patrick Duggin), Spookiest (Cooper Downs), Goofiest (Beth Lerman), Funniest, Smartest, and Best Overall.

Prizes included a can of tennis balls, a slide rule (!), tapes of scary Halloween sounds and music, and various Halloween makeup kits. Cookies and soft drinks added to the festivities. The kids had a great time exhibiting their creativity, and the adults had a wonderful opportunity to learn how to sort out the kids' whoops and howls in judging the prize winners.

We hope to see even more of you there for next year's event!



## The Tappers at 341

*by Vicky Tapper*

Due to a job transfer back in the winter of 1981, we moved from Thousand Oaks, in Southern California, to Foster City. The kids were enrolled in Audubon and Bowditch Middle Schools during this time.

Sunshine and Tiger, our two cats, came up with us from southern California. They both adjusted to the area very well. Sunshine's hobby is catching mice and running around outdoors. All Tiger caught were some zzzzzz's in the sun and small fish from the lagoon in the backyard.

As we settled in, we took up sailing. This was a great after-school / after-work sport in the late spring, entire summer, and early fall. Teresa was into cheerleading and Robyn and Eric were into soccer; mom and dad were volunteer coaches also. That took up a lot of Saturday afternoons.

Time moved on and the kids moved out. Teresa is married with a baby, Brandon, and one more on the way. She and her husband have a KFC franchise. Robyn is working at ESL, with her dad, Roger, as an administrative assistant. And Eric is in Long Beach State University,

studying to be an engineer. All the kids went to San Mateo High School and the College of San Mateo.

Vicky worked at Leasametrics and Data Preference until GE Rental bought them out and they closed down. Then Vicky was out of work and decided she'd be a plain housewife from then on.

*Editor's note: The Tappers have been great neighbors. A memorable moment in our family came a few months after we moved to Bowfin, when our daughter, Bethy, celebrated her third birthday. Vicky Tapper prepared a beautiful "doll" cake for her, featuring an actual doll atop it, which was a highlight of the event! Thanks again, Vicky, and thanks for providing us this wonderful portrait of your family!*

## **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AT THE STANDEFERS' (300)**

Cindy Standefer and 15 other local craftspeople will have their wares displayed for sale on December 9th, 10th, and 11th at 300 Bowfin. Hours will be 10AM-5PM on Friday and Saturday, 11AM-4PM on Sunday. You'll find a wide assortment of gift items - from clothing and flower arrangements to ceramics, Christmas ornaments, and jewelry. An espresso cart will be there, so buy yourself a beverage while shopping. It will all be just a few houses away, so make it a point to stop by next month!

## **ELECTION WORD FINDER**

**Can you find the names of candidates for office in the grid below? (Don't forget to vote for some of them on November 8th!)**

M I N E R G N U L S H E R  
I P D W O D E B O R A H M  
L W R I C H A R D N I D I  
L U R D A V I S A O P E L  
I M E I I N S N E T W E L  
B B Y D G O N I T G I N S  
Y E K A T H L E E N L W Y  
R R T N B H T T P I S O A  
O G A M O T N S O F O R R  
N L N O B A S N R F N B G  
O R E D L I W I T U S I O  
P L W D I N L E A H C I M  
A E I H T A C F R E D I R

*Names to search for:*

DIANNE	FEINSTEIN
MICHAEL	HUFFINGTON
KATHLEEN	BROWN
PETE	WILSON
DEBORAH	WILDER
TOM	LANTOS
RICHARD	RIDER
BOB	NEW
GRAY	DAVIS
CATHIE	WRIGHT
(TOM)	UMBERG
DAN	LUNGREN
BYRON	SHER
BILL	MILLS

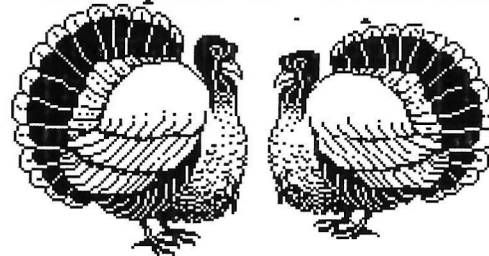


## Solution to Last Month's Puzzle

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CRoCHET  
oVERAct  
ocCUPAtION  
ocCULT  
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SoMbRerO  
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Deadline for December Issue  
is December 1st. Please  
bring your jottings, notes,  
scribblings, doodlings, and  
other newsworthy or  
biographical items to  
the Lermans' - 344 Bowfin  
or call Jerry or Eve at 572-9153.

Holiday recipes always welcome!  
(Samples are even better!)



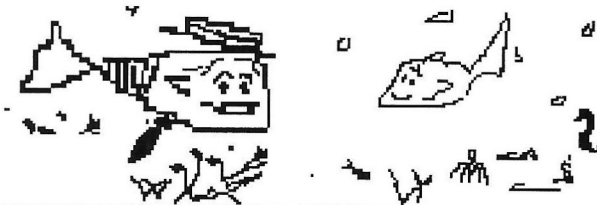
October Headline:  
**HALLOWEEN BROOMS GO UP !**

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The holiday season is  
upon us, Bo! Food, family,  
friends, shopping, ...



Shopping's always been a  
problem for me, Sharkey...



I just never know  
where to go!  
Where do **you** shop?



Just about everywhere: Pilchard Supply,  
Dacey's, the Aquarium, Merman's,  
Sea-ers, JC Penguin's, Fry's, and  
even at Cisco!





## Bowfin Holiday Boutique

As reported last month, Kevin and Cindy Standefer's home (300) will be host to a crafts fair featuring the works of 15 local artisans.

Hours for the event are:

**Friday, 12/9 : 10 AM - 5 PM**

**Sat., 12/10: 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**and**

**Sunday, 12/11: 11 AM - 4 PM**

Be sure to stop by and say hi!

**For more information, call  
Cindy at 572-1249.**

## Brewer Island Elementary School

*One Family's Opinion*

**by Jerry Lerman**

On December 8th our School Board will decide whether the new Brewer Island school will conform to a traditional school schedule or will operate on a "year-round" alternative schedule, reducing the length of summer vacation, and introducing several smaller breaks throughout the year.

Superintendent Richard Damelio, in materials recently distributed to FC residents, explained how only 40% of the parent respondents to a survey on this issue supported the



alternative schedule, and that the survey had an 85% response rate. Despite this evidence that a clear majority favored the traditional schedule for the new school, Dr. Damelio went on to recommend that the alternative schedule be adopted; "this recommendation is consistent with the survey results shown," he wrote. If ignoring the fact of the survey were not enough evidence of his bias, he finished the sentence: "... and I'm excited that this calendar option may become a reality for the community."

I would have hoped our superintendent would show greater dispassion on this issue. Just what percentage of negative responses did he need to see before he would recognize that an alternative calendar was NOT favored? 100%? And what survey expert failed to advise him that lumping together "very interested" respondents with those who were "willing to commit" to a new calendar was statistically inappropriate; a fairer assessment would assign no more than a half point to each "very interested." Unfortunately, Dr. Damelio failed to supply us with the actual breakdown of the survey

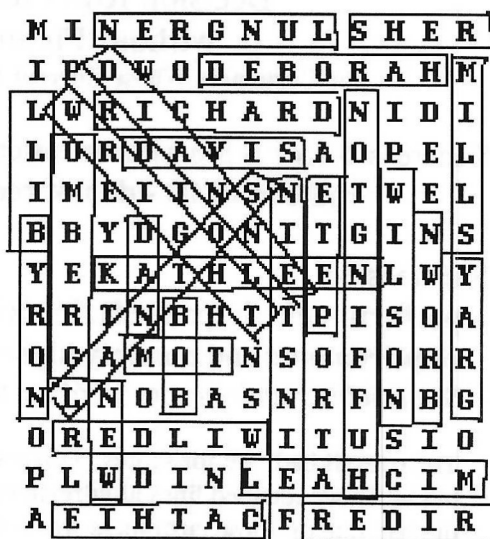
between these two alternatives.

You know, the 30% or so that the much maligned Unification proposition garnered is really quite close to the 40% that Damelio now sees as a mandate. In fact, if one assumes that the 15% who failed to respond probably were more disposed to the traditional calendar (or else they'd have definitely voiced their opinions), the gap becomes quite small indeed.

Some of the pitfalls of having the alternative calendar forced upon us include: (1) the risk of failing to eliminate overcrowding at the other schools, which is by far the most salient purpose of having a new school; (2) scheduling problems for families with children in both elementary and middle or secondary schools; (3) finding that prospective new residents are not as enthralled by the calendar as are the current crop of parents (who seem, at best, lukewarm by any objective interpretation.)

I believe that I'm seeing bias getting in the way of clear thinking on the part of Dr. Damelio. I'm sure that alternative calendars can work - maybe even here in Foster City - but the fact is that today it is a very unpopular idea. The good superintendent's failure to face up to this is a shortcoming I hope he'll overcome by this Thursday's meeting.

## Solution to Last Month's ELECTION WORD FINDER



*Names to search for:*

DIANNE	FEINSTEIN
MICHAEL	HUFFINGTON
KATHLEEN	BROWN
PETE	WILSON
DEBORAH	WILDER
TOM	LANTOS
RICHARD	RIDER
BOB	NEW
GRAY	DAVIS
CATHIE	WRIGHT
(TOM)	UMBERG
DAN	LUNGREN
BYRON	SHER
BILL	MILLS

*Joy!*

*This Month's Quiz:*

## Decemberabilia

Can you answer these questions dealing with the season?

1. 1950's TV program featuring Spring Byington and Harry Morgan:  
**D E C E M B E R** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. 1845 POEm set in the bleak December: **T H E** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. Those taking part in the uprising against Nicholas I in 1825:  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. Scrooge's partner, whose ghost haunts him:  
**J A C O B** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. Director of Christmas film, It's a Wonderful Life:  
**F R A N K** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. Film director, born December 18, 1947:  
**S T E V E N** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. Lead surgeon in first successful human heart transplant, 12/3/67:  
**C H R I S T I A N N.** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. Country bombed in December, 1972, on orders of RMN:  
**N O R T H** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
9. Author of "Men are April when they woo, December when they wed ..."  
**W I L L I A M** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10. Flight commander on Apollo 8 orbital of the moon, December, 1968:  
**F R A N K** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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