

## Alternative Calendar Approved for Brewer Island Elementary School

The FC/San Mateo School Board met December 8th to decide how to split up FC's elementary school population among the three schools that will be open for the 1995-1996 school year. Alternatives studied by the Board included using various geographic boundary schemes, as well as introducing an "alternative calendar" for Brewer Island. Uppermost in the Board's considerations was to alleviate the overcrowding that has plagued Foster City and Audubon schools the past several years.

After entertaining comments from the small number of parents who chose to attend, all but one of whom supported the idea of the alternative calendar, the Board voted unanimously in favor of opening Brewer Island as an alternative calendar school. The proposal includes allocating roughly 20% of the school's 500 slots to children living in close proximity to the school, and the remainder to be filled on either a first-come first-served or lottery basis.

Superintendent Damelio acknowledged that there was some risk that the school would be under-enrolled because the survey findings (related in last month's paper) might not prove truly predictive, so a provision was made to review enrollment figures in March. If those are deemed unsatisfactory, the Board will then consider reverting to a boundary-based enrollment. Asked whether it will be possible to act at so late a date, Damelio acknowledged that

it would not be easy, but it could certainly be done.

## The Tapper's (341) New Years' News *by Roger Tapper*

We had a new addition to the family on January 1: our daughter, Teresa, had her second child. Her name is Melissa Rose Mercado, and she was the first baby to be born in Gilroy for 1995. The family got a write-up and photograph in the local newspaper, along with some gift certificates for this honor.

This 1/1 birthdate breaks a tradition for our family. Up till now, all our births have fallen on certain days of the month. Both our daughters are on the 7th. Mom and son are on the 26th, along with an uncle. Dad, grandson, grandmother, and an aunt are all on the 17th. In fact, born the same month, Dad and grandson, Brandon, have birthday's together. Nevertheless, Melissa's can never be forgotten!

Following the birth, Teresa spent a week at her old home on Bowfin, and is now back at home in Hollister.

*Editor's note: Those birthdate coincidences are really something, aren't they! Our family has three pairs of children born on each other's half birthdays! I wonder how many others of us Bowfiners have family oddities to share. If you do, we'd love to write them up for you; just call us (Eve or Jerry Lerman) at 572-9153 with your news tidbit.*



# A Profile of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by David Levering Lewis  
(Excepted from Compuserve's Grolier's Encyclopedia)

Martin Luther King, Jr., was a man of impressive moral presence who devoted his life to the fight for full citizenship rights of the poor, disadvantaged, and racially oppressed in the United States. Born on Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Ga., he was the second of three children of the Rev. Michael (later Martin) and Mrs. Alberta Williams King. He received a bachelor's degree in sociology (1948) from Morehouse College, a B.D. (1951) from Crozer Theological Seminary, and a doctorate in philosophy (1955) from Boston University.

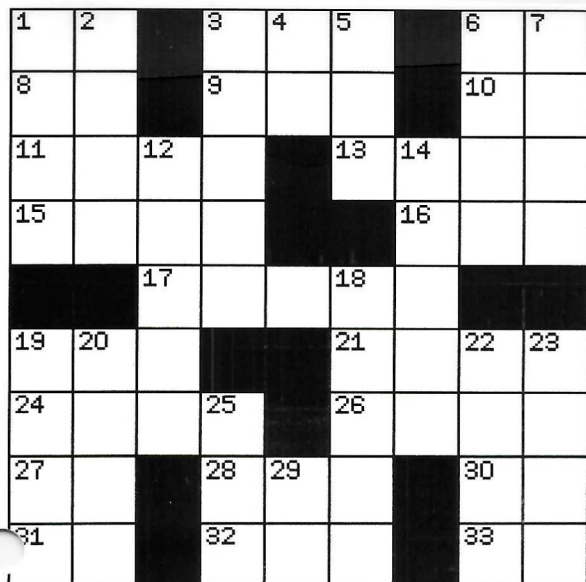
In 1954, King accepted his first pastorate--the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. He and his wife, Coretta Scott King, whom he had met and married (June 1953) while at Boston University, had been resident in Montgomery less than a year when Mrs. Rosa Parks defied the ordinance concerning segregated seating on city buses (Dec. 1, 1955). King's successful organization of the year-long Montgomery bus boycott, with the assistance of the Rev. Ralph ABERNATHY and Edward Nixon, catapulted him into national prominence as a leader of the CIVIL RIGHTS movement.

King studied the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and further developed the Indian leader's doctrine of satyagraha ("holding to the truth"), or nonviolent civil disobedience. In the aftermath of Montgomery he traveled, delivered speeches, and wrote his first book, *Stride toward Freedom* (1958). In 1960 he accepted copastorship with his father of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and became president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He organized the massive March on Washington (Aug. 28, 1963) where, in his brilliant "I Have a Dream" speech, he "subpoenaed the conscience of the nation before the judgment seat of morality." In January 1964, *Time* magazine chose King Man of the Year, the first black American so honored. Later that year he became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Early in 1968, King began to plan a multiracial poor people's march on Washington to demand an end to all forms of discrimination and the funding of a \$12-billion "Economic Bill of Rights." In the midst of organizing this campaign, he flew to Memphis, Tenn., to assist striking sanitation workers. There, on Apr. 4, 1968, King was felled by an assassin's bullet. The violent death of this man of peace brought an immediate reaction of rioting in black ghettos around the country.

In 1983, King's birthday was designated a national holiday.

## This Month's Puzzle: On the Street Where You Live



### ACROSS

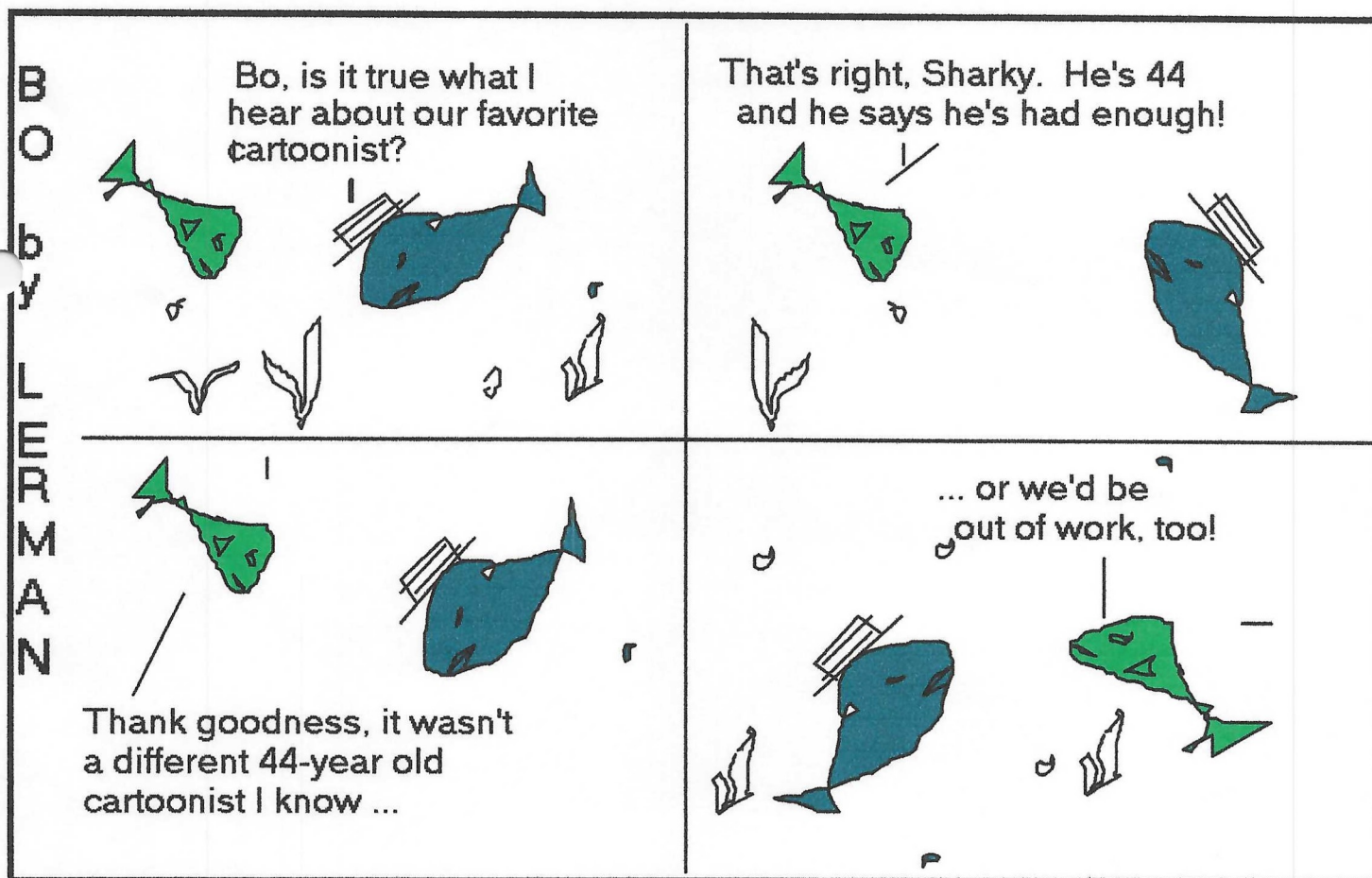
- 1 act
- 3 half of our street
- 6 Egyptian sun god
- 8 a form of modern art
- 9 reverential fear
- 10 printers' measure
- 11 Dillon (actor or marshal)
- 13 Med.'s monopoly partner (abbr.)
- 15 Reno's \_ machines
- 16 Ham on \_
- 17 Similar but not identical
- 19 2nd person
- 21 examination
- 24 margarine
- 26 resembling a shade tree
- 27 light bulb company (abbr.)
- 28 not near
- 30 not down
- 31 exists
- 32 the other half of our street
- 33 move

### DOWN

- 1 titles for certain monks
- 2 a birthstone
- 3 pertaining to a ballet movement
- 4 "Ooh..that hurts!"
- 5 spider's lair
- 6 count (upon)
- 7 before (Latin)
- 12 close-fitting hat
- 14 African gazelle
- 18 opposite of 3 across
- 19 meditative exerciser
- 20 corrida cheers
- 22 highly self-satisfied
- 23 printer's error
- 25 not on
- 29 three-toed sloth

## Solution to Last Month's Puzzle *Decemberabilia*

1. 1950's TV program featuring Spring Byington: *December BRIDE*.
2. 1845 POEm set in the bleak December: *the RAVEN*.
3. Those taking part in the uprising against Nicholas I in 1825: *DECEMBRISTS*.
4. Scrooge's partner, whose ghost haunts him: *Jacob MARLEY*.
5. Director of Christmas film, It's a Wonderful Life: *Frank CAPRA*.
6. Film director, born December 18, 1947: *Steven SPIELBERG*.
7. Lead surgeon in first successful human heart transplant, 12/3/67: *Christiaan N. BARNARD*.
8. Country bombed in December, 1972, on orders of RMN: *North VIETNAM*.
9. Author of "Men are April when they woo, December when they wed ...": *William SHAKESPEARE*.
10. Flight commander on Apollo 8 orbital of the moon, December, 1968: *Frank BORMAN*.







## BI's Belay It or Knot

*Tying Together Our Neighborhood*

The Downs family (320) reports yet another birthday coincidence. Two days separate the birthdays of their sons, Asa and Cooper, and there is also a two-day gap between birthdays of a related pair of siblings: their grandfather and great-aunt.

Jerry Lerman, publisher of this august journal (even in february!), has his name appearing in every copy of the newly published "Everything Scrabble," by John Williams and Joe Edley (Pocket Books). See if you can find it.

Jacob Lerman, eight-year-old heir apparent to the Scrabble throne of the Lerman family, made his first appearance at the San Jose Scrabble Club a memorable one. On his first rack, he plunked down the word MYRTLE for 24 points, dropping the jaw of his 50-odd year old opponent. (Quick - do you know an unusual anagram from these same six letters? It means *periodically*?)

Eve Lerman was recently invited to a wedding where she knew neither the bride, nor the groom, nor did she recognize any connection whatsoever between herself and the families. She thought perhaps a former student of hers had remembered her, but none of her past years' class rosters showed this to be true. She was truly perplexed. Off-handedly, she mentioned the situation to someone at her part-time place of employment, and was surprised to find that she had the answer: the owner of that very firm had invited all the employees, even the part-timers, to his brother's wedding!

## This Month's Quiz

### Heartstrings

Fill in the blanks. Then take aim at the Valentine's Day message below by transferring each bracketed letter to one of the blanks with the corresponding sentence number.

- 1) [ ] [ ] \_ \_ \_ H E A R T : dear one
- 2) H E A R T \_ [ ] \_ [ ] : anguish of mind
- 3) H E A R T [ ] \_ [ ] \_ : canine parasite
- 4) H E A R T \_ \_ \_ [ ] [ ] \_ : a stone for cleaning a fireplace floor
- 5) H E A [ ] R [ ] [ ] T : a pad for preventing whiplash
- 6) H E A \_ \_ \_ [ ] R T : a promising beginning (2 wds.)
- 7) H E A R T [ ] [ ] [ ] \_ : gastric upset symptom
- 8) "\_ H E [ ] A R T \_ ' \_ [ ] [ ] \_ [ ] :  
... it's time to call it a day." (3 wds.)
- 9) H E A R T \_ [ ] \_ \_ : very despondent

### Valentine's Day Message:

```

      '
2 7 8 9 5 1 6 3 7 8 1 5
      !
4 2 8 5 8 7 4 3
  
```



## WORD PAIRS JUST FOR KIDS

Can you figure out these pairs of words,  
which are identical except for one letter?  
(answers on page 3)

A floor cleaning tool \_ \_ \_  
A chart to help you travel \_ \_ \_

An animal that lives in the water \_ \_ \_ \_  
A cup, a saucer, or a plate \_ \_ \_ \_

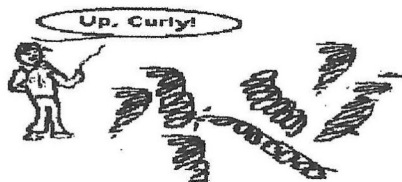
A choo-choo \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
What the scarecrow wanted \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A lot of noise \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
A spaceship \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The sun's color \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
For he's a jolly good ... \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



This February will we see *spring training*  
or merely  
*training springs*?



## Solution to Last Month's Puzzle ON THE STREET WHERE WE LIVE

1	D	2	O		3	B	4	O	5	W		6	R	7	A
8	O	P			9	A	W	E				10	E	N	
11	M	A	12	T	T			13	B	A		14	L	T	
15	S	L	O	T								16	R	Y	E
			17	Q	U	A		18	S	I					
19	Y	O	U					21	T	E		22	S	23	T
24	O	L	E	25	O			26	E	L		M	Y		
27	G	E		28	F	A	R					30	U	P	
31	I	S		32	F	I	N					33	G	O	

## Help Make The Bowfin Inquirer YOUR Paper

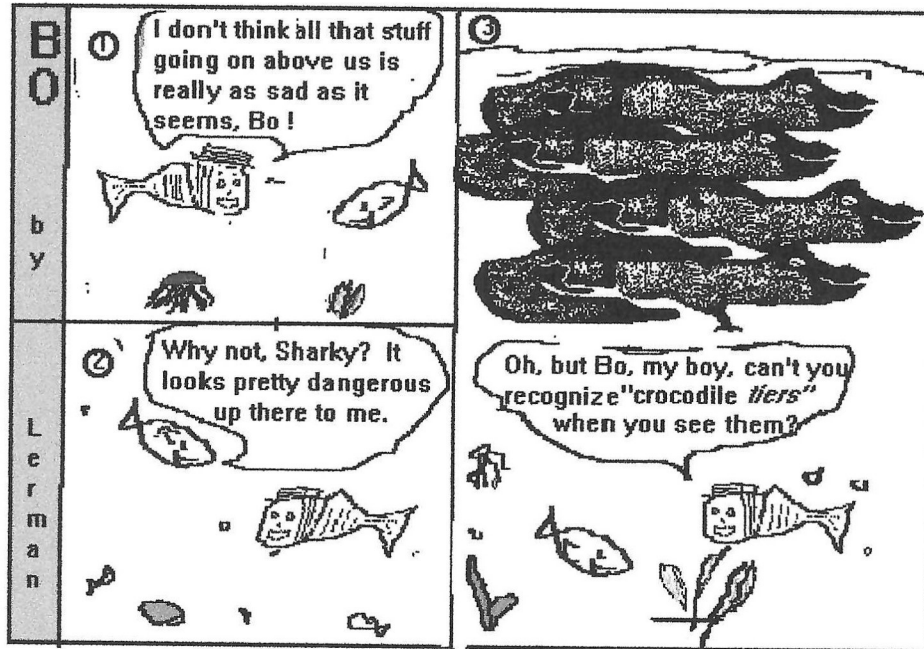
Please call Jerry or Eve Lerman  
at 572-9153 with news items,  
opinions, articles, ideas for  
neighborhood activities,  
etc.

**Deadline for Next Issue:**

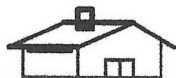
**Friday, March 3rd**

# Solutions to WORD PAIRS (p.2)

MOP, MAP FISH, DISH TRAIN, BRAIN RACKET, ROCKET YELLOW,  
FELLOW







## Taxing Times

What sayeth the sages about government's means of financing itself? We now turn to the *The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations* (licensed from Columbia University Press. Copyright © 1993 by Columbia University Press. Included in Microsoft *BOOKSHELF*) for some answers:

To tax and to please, no more than to love and to be wise, is not given to men.

**Edmund Burke** (1729–97), Irish philosopher, statesman. "First Speech on Conciliation with America: American Taxation," 19 April 1774.

Nothing is so well calculated to produce a death-like torpor in the country as an extended system of taxation and a great national debt.

**William Cobbett** (1762–1835), English journalist, reformer. Letter, 10 Feb. 1804.

Civil servants and priests, soldiers and ballet-dancers, schoolmasters and police constables, Greek museums and Gothic steeples, civil list and services list—the common seed within which all these fabulous beings slumber in embryo is taxation.

**Karl Marx** (1818–83), German political theorist, social philosopher. *Moralizing Criticism and Critical Morality* (1847; repr. in Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: *Collected Works*, vol. 6, 1976).

All money nowadays seems to be produced with a natural homing instinct for the Treasury.

**Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh** (b. 1921). Quoted in: *Observer* (London, 26 May 1963).

*With the government's fingers in  
virtually every pie these days,  
someday soon we'll probably get stuck  
with a "thumb tax."*

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

**George Bernard Shaw** (1856–1950), Anglo-Irish playwright, critic. *Everybody's Political What's What*, ch. 30 (1944).

If a thousand men were not to pay their tax-bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood. This is, in fact, the definition of a peaceable revolution, if any such is possible.

**Henry David Thoreau** (1817–62), U.S. philosopher, author, naturalist. *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience* (1849). Thoreau by his account paid no poll tax for six years, for which he spent a night in jail in the summer of 1846, a gesture against the Mexican War declared that year.

In other words, a democratic government is the only one in which those who vote for a tax can escape the obligation to pay it.

**Alexis de Tocqueville** (1805–59), French social philosopher. *Democracy in America*, vol. 1, pt. 2, ch. 5 (1840).

We don't pay taxes. Only the little people pay taxes.

**Leona Helmsley** (b. 1920), U.S. businesswoman. Quoted by Helmsley's former housekeeper during her trial for tax evasion, in *New York Times* (12 July 1989). In March 1992, Leona Helmsley was sentenced to four years' imprisonment. (*Perhaps not quite the sage the others were!*)

## MYART's Annie

Young performing artists from all over the Bay Area, including Bowfin's own Beth Lerman (344), will be appearing in the upcoming MYART production of the musical Annie at the Henry M. Gunn High School Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto.

The schedule of performances:

### Evenings

Fri-Sat April 21st-22nd 8 PM

(21st is "Gala" - reception at 7 PM)

Thu April 27th 7:30 PM

Fri-Sat April 28th-29th 8 PM

### Matinees

Sat-Sun April 22nd-23rd 1:00 PM

Sat-Sun April 29th-30th 1:00 PM

Adult tickets are \$12. Seniors and children under 12 are \$10.

("Gala" tickets - including refreshments - are : Adults: \$20, Seniors \$18, Children \$12)

To order/charge tickets, call (800) 400-2985.

MYART (Musical Youth Artists Repertory Theatre) is a not-for-profit educational organization.

## Solution to Last Month's Quiz

1. march HARE
2. WASHINGTON POST march
3. mONarch
4. marASchINO
5. marIAchI
6. FREDRIC march
7. MIDDLEmarch
8. LONG march
9. marY WOLLSTONEcRAFT ShELLEY
10. marGARET MITchELL

IS THIS AN ORDER TO STEP ON IT?

## Jacob Says Thank You

by Jacob Lerman

Thanks to all my neighbors for helping me get a hundred and twenty-nine dollars and 89 cents for the Little League Hit-a-Thon. I was the only one on my team to raise a hundred dollars! And I hit the ball 130 feet!

## This Month's Puzzles

These three puzzles are from one of Jacob's favorite books, **More Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School**, by Louis Sachar (Scholastic, 1994).

These are essentially numerical cryptograms. Each letter stands for a digit (0 - 9), and no two different letters stand for the same digit.

(1)

```

  S T I L L
  S T A L L
+ S T I L T
=====
N I T W I T

```

(2)

```

  P E P P E R S
+ P I G L I P S
=====
I G I V E U P

```

(3)

```

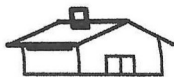
  M I S S W O R M
+ Z I L L I O N S
=====
Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z

```

This third one requires a few more clues: The letter Q has been omitted intentionally from this puzzle. It is a digit bigger than N.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
MAY 5th**





## **KIDS!!! BI's First Essay Contest**

### **What Did You Like About School This Year?**

Kids on the block are almost certain to have noticed that with the advent of May, only one month remains in the school year. Readers of this May journal (we're not quite august, yet!) will notice that another month has gone by with no contributed items to the paper, leaving the editor to his own devices yet again!

Well, this coming month may be different! This desperate editor will PAY for brief essays submitted by Bowfin's school-attending youth on the above topic. Essays can be submitted on napkins, kleenex (preferably unused), or standard notebook paper. Entries should be hand-delivered, or placed in the Lermans' mailbox (344), by no later than Saturday, June 3rd. Please note your age and school grade on your entry.

Provided that at least three entries are received, we'll solicit three Bowfin adults to volunteer as judges. The essays will be reviewed for originality, clarity, and quality of expression, taking into account entrants' ages and grade-levels.

#### **Prizes**

- 1st : \$5.00 gift certificate to Baskin Robbins and your picture in the Bowfin Inquirer. (Entry will also be forwarded to the Foster City Progress for possible inclusion.)
- 2nd: \$3.00 gift certificate to Baskin Robbins.
- 3rd: \$2.00 gift certificate to Baskin Robbins.



## *What I Learned From the Grocery Strike*

### **Small Business ...**

#### **Big Value**

*by Jerry Lerman (344)*

When Eve and I learned about the upcoming strike a few weeks back, we weren't sure whether to cross the picket line or not. We're dyed-in-the-wool customers of brand S, enjoying its low prices and dairy product line. In respect for the striking workers, who faced reductions in their benefits if they didn't take a stand, we chose to go to our little store, F, spend a little more, and hope our decision helped to bring about a faster resolution to the strike.

Things seemed to turn out very well. During the strike, F's became very busy. Instead of taking advantage of the new shoppers with higher prices, however, they chose to maintain their good service and reasonable prices. The big chains got their strike settled, probably influence by the evidence that shoppers cared about the grocery workers.

F's presence on the scene provided us a big benefit. Had it not been here, willing to take the risk of occupying a small-time shopping center site with a history of problems, we and families like ours would have had to become picket-line crossers or part-time San Mateans to get our food.

Recently I heard that hardware store, A, will be closing down, probably because of O's arrival a few months back. Prices at O are lower, no doubt, but service and convenience at A seemed a cut above normal to me. Many of us will regret seeing it and its bright floral displays exit Charter Square.

We have a community that will prosper more from keeping its fine, smaller merchants in business than from saving a few dollars by sidestepping them.

(1)

$$\begin{array}{r} 89655 \\ 89755 \\ + 89659 \\ \hline 269069 \end{array}$$

(2)

$$\begin{array}{r} 4644672 \\ + 4953942 \\ \hline \hline 9598614 \end{array}$$

(3)

$$\begin{array}{r} 95226079 \\ + 15885032 \\ \hline 11111111 \end{array}$$

## MEGALO MAY NIA

1. Resembling germinated grain : M A  $\ominus$   $\ominus$  Y

2. Book by Robert Burton (1577-1640) :  
The Anatomy of M   A  Y

3. Pilgrim vessel: M A Y    

4. Foreign service office : M ☐ A ☐ Y

5. Theological school :  $\ominus$  M  $\ominus\ominus$  A Y

6. Sandwich dressing : M A Y \_ \_ \_

7. Type of gland : M  $\ominus$   $\ominus$  A  $\ominus$  Y

8. To go with:  $\ominus\ominus$        $M\ominus A\ominus Y$

9. Extremely disturbingly, as if caused by a bad dream :      ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ M A      ⊖      Y

10. Best song winner, 1955 : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ M A Y - \_\_\_\_\_

### Question for the rain-weary:

$$\overline{8} \overline{7} \overline{5} \quad \overline{10} \overline{2} \overline{9} \overline{4} \quad \overline{7} \overline{3} \overline{6} \overline{9} \overline{10} \quad \overline{4} \overline{2} \quad \overline{1} \overline{9} \overline{3}$$
$$\overline{3} \overline{10} \overline{1} \overline{2} \overline{4} \overline{8} \overline{7} \overline{5} \overline{6} \overline{9} \overline{10} \overline{3} \overline{5} \overline{10} \overline{3} \overline{6} \overline{8} \overline{10} \text{ ?}$$

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
JUNE 3rd**





## ESSAY CONTEST EXTENDED

### Some Kids Must Have Enjoyed School...

### and Like Baskin Robbins'

by Jerry Lerman (344)

The count of Bowfin kids who had a kind word to say about the school year for last month's essay contest came to exactly zero. Even the editor's own children refused to participate in helping to put together an opinion column for our youngsters.

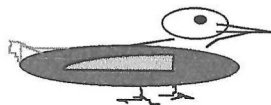
Because there are some interesting things that can be said about how school influenced you this year, kids, I'm extending the contest for one additional month. But PLEASE! Hurry up and enter before you forget everything you learned this year!

Short essays are perfectly all right (and stand a fair chance of winning a \$5.00 coupon for Baskin Robbins, given the paucity of interest in this contest!) An example of a reasonable contribution could be a one sentence essay beginning: "I enjoyed school this year because ...." but your entry can certainly run a bit longer and show greater creativity, if you like.

The new deadline will be **June 30th**. Please drop off your entry by then at 344.

### Lermans' "Wild Thing"

When you get a moment, feel free to drop by and see the Lermans' latest visitor, Claire, a pigeon who has made her nest above the porch light at 344. This is Claire's second visit, the first one culminating in her hatching two eggs into darling little babies a few weeks ago. The incubation period runs about 20 days, so that these newborns should be arriving sometime before June 15.



## Science Fair Cookies

by Ginger Andersen (376)

A few years ago, while trying to think of a Science Fair topic, my mother gave me the idea of making chocolate chip cookies excluding certain ingredients from the batter, then baking them to see how they turned out! Well, I did this, and by far the best were the cookies that I left the brown sugar out of. So here's the recipe (*or try your own recipe, leaving out the brown sugar!*)

**1 cup shortening (or stick of margarine)**

**3/4 cup regular sugar**

**1 tsp vanilla**

**1/2 tsp water**

**(Mix the above well)**

**Beat in 2 eggs**

**Add in: 2 - 1/4 cups flour**

**1 tsp baking soda**

**1 tsp salt**

**Add 1 package chocolate chips (use as much or little as you want of these)**

**Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.**

*Editor's Note: Thanks for the great recipe, Ginger. One question, though: if these are that easy to make, shouldn't they be called Ginger "snaps"?*

## Solution to Last Month's MEGALO MAY NIA

1. MALTY
2. MELANCHOLY
3. MAYFLOWER
4. EMBASSY
5. SEMINARY
6. MAYONNAISE
7. MAMMARY
8. ACCOMPANY
9. NIGHTMARISHLY
10. LOVE IS A MANY-SPLENDORED THING

Question for the rain-weary:

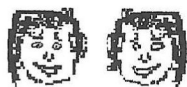
***CAN THIS MONTH BE THE  
WELLSPRING OF SPRING?***

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### ***Going on Vacation?***

House, Pet Sitting  
Water Yard  
Collect Mail / Newspapers

*call: Wendy & Ginger Andersen*  
**578-1416**



## ***This Month's Quiz***

Over the Memorial Day weekend, your editor was privileged to make a memorable 54 point play in the Santa Clara Classic Scrabble Tournament. The word not only scored a high number of points, but also gained an extra turn because my opponent challenged, thinking the word was make-believe.

The 7 letters I held on my rack were:

**B F I N U W W**

and my opponent, P.K. Gott, of Portland, Oregon, had just played the word

**A U D I O**

across the second row of the Scrabble board, on the rightmost 5 columns. Thus, the **O** in the word was directly below the top-right *triple word score*. Two squares below the **O** was a *double letter score* square.

Can you figure out the high scoring play I made through the **O**?

**DEADLINE FOR ESSAYS AND  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
JUNE 30th**

### **Quote of the Month**

*Ah, summer, what power you have to make us  
suffer and like it.*

**Russell Baker** (b. 1925), U.S. journalist





## Essay Contest Winners Selected

### Students Evaluate Student Essays

Three college-age judges have decided the winner of our Bowfin Inquirer Essay Contest. Patrick Sheridan (337), a recent graduate of CSM who will soon be attending the L.A. Art Center to study industrial car design, graciously accepted our offer to evaluate the two submissions. Also participating were two friends of Jason Kirkley (336), Chris Busselle, a student at Brown University, and Greg Sefanov, who attends UCLA

*The editor and his wife want to express their thanks to these fine, impartial judges, for taking up this challenge - so that they did not have to make the call themselves!*

**Essay Contest 1st Prize Winner - \$5 Baskin Robbins Certificate**

#### My School Essay

*By Jacob Lerman (Age 8)*

My favorite part about school were my teachers, and what they taught and did to help kids learn what they should do for fourth grade. My teachers' names were Miss Maine and Mrs. Kenmotsu. Miss Maine was a very funny and nice teacher. She taught math, science, and social studies. What I really liked about her was she was able to teach kids that weren't as high in smartness to understand stuff that the smart kids knew. My favorite subjects were all three. I liked math the most because I finished first in division's 60 problems -- in less than a minute.

I also liked math because it was very fun doing addition and subtraction the first 2 days, then we did fractions and multiplication, then division.

Mrs. Kenmotsu taught language arts, spelling, and reading. My favorite thing about her and my favorite subject was spelling. I liked spelling because she didn't make kids do all 25 words, and at the beginning of the year we had 16 words.

They were great teachers, but I don't like it that both of them are leaving Audubon.

**Essay Contest 2nd Prize Winner- \$3 Baskin Robbins Certificate**

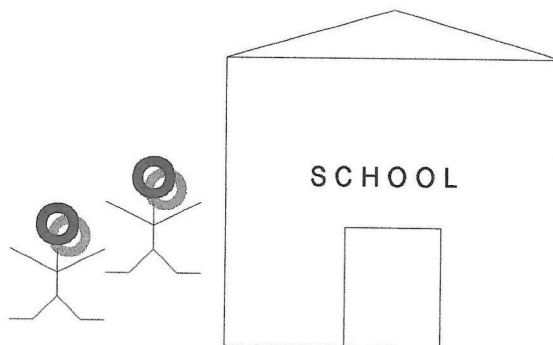
#### My First Year at Bowditch

*by Beth Lerman (Age 12)*

Over the past school year, the thing I think that really stood out in my mind as something special was the teachers. I really liked my Math and Science teacher, Mr. Wilkin. He taught us things using a very effective method. He liked to do a lot of hands-on activities, especially in the Science area. I really favored Mrs. Clark, another teacher of mine who taught Social Studies, Language Arts, and Reading. Even though she did things a little differently than other teachers (like when she assigned reports), she still managed to teach us just as much as the other teachers did.

I guess that's about it. School wasn't bad this year, but I really noticed the staff far more than other things, because everything that was done was organized by the staff. So basically everything done at the school this year, good or bad, we have to owe it to them. And because everything was so good, I believe all the students should owe all of them their gratitude.

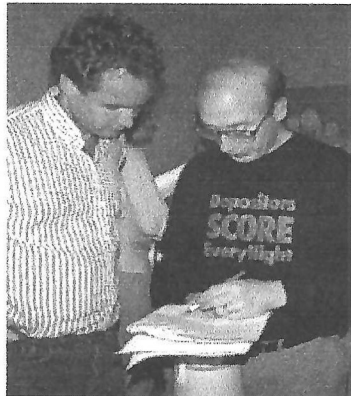
*The editor would like also to express his gratitude to his children for finding it in their hearts to bail him out from what appeared to be an undersubscribed contest with some nice essay-writing under deadline.*



## Solution to Last Month's Quiz

The 54-point play I made with the letters BFINUWW, through the O played by my opponent, was the familiar word:

**BOWFIN !!**



Scrabblers Jeff Widergren(l) and Jerry Lerman, at the Memorial Day tournament in San Jose (Internet photo)

### *This Month's Quiz*

#### **DRAWLING A BANK**

Can you recognize these prominent banks even though they appear totally bankrupt here?

- 1) CHANT ANATHEMAS
- 2) BACKFIRE A MOAN
- 3) FRITTERS TAN BEATNIKS
- 4) OP CRITIC
- 5) COMIC ERA
- 6) BENT TANBARK
- 7) BLANK LEMON
- 8) SCRABBL Y KANA
- 9) MOUNTS AKIMBO
- 10) RAG FELLOWS
- 11) TEN GAWKERS BANTER

## **SECOND ANNUAL BOWFIN BLOCK PARTY**

*Saturday July 29th, 5:00-7:00 PM*

This month marks the anniversary of our first block party, which was held the last weekend of July, at the Robertsons' home. We'd like to have those of you interested in a second edition of this neighborhood get-together get in touch with us to organize the next one. We'll need a backyard site as well as volunteers to provide some of the following: food, drink, barbecuing expertise. As before, we'll be happy to do the coordination and bring some Costco meat and goodies - but our backyard doesn't quite have the capacity to handle the potential crowd.

Please call and let us know if you're interested and able to come: Eve or Jerry Lerman, 572-9153. We look forward to seeing you there (wherever there turns out to be) !

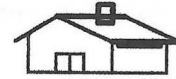
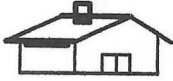
**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
JULY 30th**

### **Thoughts for July**

"Famous remarks are very seldom quoted correctly." - Simeon Strunsky, 1944

"There are some people who read too much: the bibliobibuli. I know some who are constantly drunk on books, as other men are drunk on whiskey or religion. They wander through this most diverting and stimulating of worlds in a haze, seeing nothing and hearing nothing." - H.L. Mencken, 1956

"Human status ought not to depend upon the changing demands of the economic process." - William Temple, 1941



## Postponement

### **Block Party Rescheduled: Saturday August 26th, 5:00 PM**

So few of the families who expressed an interest in attending this year's block party were going to be in town on July 29th that it became clear we should move the event to another weekend - one that will probably find more of us able to attend. Here, then, are the particulars we've come up with

**Date/Time:** August 26th, 5:00 - 7:00

**Site:** Marlin Park

**What to Bring:** Your favorite appetizer, dish, salad, or dessert (call the Lermans at 572-9153 to "register" or find out what is still needed)

**What Else?** Mobile barbequeing gear is wanted; portable tables, chairs and ground coverings may help; activities for the kids

We'll see you there!

### **Musings on the Fourth of July** *by Harmon Brown (345)*

I was very pleased when the S.F. Examiner printed the entire Declaration of Independence on its July 4th editorial page. Everyone should take the time to read it carefully, and think about what it meant then, in the context of history and our relationships with the "mother country." It really was a revolutionary concept for its time, and sparked a change in peoples' concepts of government which continues to have worldwide impact to this day.

I hope that our schools are continuing to take a close look at the roots of our country as part of their curriculum of the study of American history. It essentially defines who we are as a nation and as individuals.

I wonder whether those extreme groups on the right and left of the political spectrum which have received so much attention lately feel that they fall into the same category as the "founding fathers" who felt impelled to dissolve their bonds to their government. Are some people today really as disenfranchised as the Colonists? Are there no adequate channels for the "redress of grievances?" If so, I think that it is more related to our rapidly changing economic conditions than to our political organization. We are rapidly creating classes of "haves" and "have-nots" in which many feel powerless and frustrated. This situation needs to be addressed, rather than looking to a change in government or "less government" to provide ready answers.

I welcome comments and other random musings.

*Editor's Note: Harmon, thanks very much for your musings. I think that a key power of our country's Constitution is that it permits us to adapt to changing needs, such as we're seeing "in trumps" today, through its granting of legislative rights to the Congress. Our legislators are too often working for causes that help split our country into haves and have-nots, however. The reason we see some extremists looking to change the government is that they see how poorly Congress has been functioning, and they put the blame on the structure rather than on the people in the structure. The news in this morning's (7/29) paper that the Senate has "agreed unanimously ... to impose strict new limits on free meals, expense-paid trips and other gifts to its members and staff" substantiates to some extent my thought that the system can work better than it has been and my hope that it will start to do so!*

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
August 31st**



## Solution to Last Month's DRAWLING A BANK

- 1) CHASE MANHATTAN
- 2) BANK OF AMERICA
- 3) FIRST INTERSTATE BANK
- 4) CITICORP
- 5) COMERICA
- 6) BARNETT BANK
- 7) MELLON BANK
- 8) BARCLAYS BANK
- 9) SUMITOMO BANK
- 10) WELLS FARGO
- 11) GREAT WESTERN BANK

### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

### Y'AUG COME!

Fill in the blanks to the word clues; then fit the circled letters from each clue into the appropriate slots of the solution line to solve this month's mystery message.

1. Saul Bellow novel, the Adventures of

A U G \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. " \_ A U G \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ A U G \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ ,

cry and you cry alone."

3. Supercilious: \_ A U G \_ \_ \_

4. Captain Bligh portrayer:

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ A U G \_ \_ \_ \_

5. Pillaging: \_ A \_ \_ U \_ \_ G

6. English, for example: \_ A \_ \_ \_ U \_ G \_

7. Brightly colored beetles: \_ A \_ \_ \_ U G \_

8. Pacific nation (3 wds.): \_ A \_ U \_  
\_ \_ \_ G \_ \_ \_ \_

9. Trouble (Scottish): \_ A U G \_

10. Woolly fetal covering: \_ A \_ U G \_

### Secret Message:

1 6 2 4 2 8 2 5 3 1 2 8 4 5

8 6 1 2 7 1 4 2 6 4 3 2 5 6 4 2 4 7

7 6 10 4 9 !

### Radio Daze!

by Jerry Lerman

We have just embarked on the wondrous experience of being an Arbitron family. Arbitron is radio's version of A.C. Nielsen - it tracks what listeners are tuned into, and reports the results to help advertisers decide where to play their spots. On the basis of a few hundred randomly selected families' habits, the fortunes of radio stations are made or lost.

A few days ago I received a postcard from Arbitron, telling me to pay attention to a phone call that would come shortly: it would not be an offer to sell anything. I sensed that these people knew me already; without such notice the suddenness of my hanging up on yet another commercial caller would probably have radioed a serious lack of interest to them.

But I did answer the phone, and I agreed to have them send three daily diaries to our household: for myself, my wife, Eve, and my twelve-year-old daughter, Beth. (I guess these radio folks treat twelve-year-olds as grownups because they're the only ones in the household who are buying music CDs.) We received these a few days before the the Thursday, August 3rd, kick-off of the survey week, and then were called again to make sure we

understood the directions. The directions seemed clear enough, Eve told them.

There was one thing that wasn't made clear - whether we should look at this week as an opportunity to become avid radio listeners, or should stick to our normal listening habits, which is to listen to next-to-nothing. Since they left the question unanswered, I'll bet that some of us Arbitron'ers are going at it one way, while the others see things differently.

It's a big question, though. If we start listening to stations in a fashion that we have not done in the past, nor will do once the survey week ends, what possible meaning will the results have? The stations and advertisers want to know what size listenerships programs have over the long-haul - not just for the duration of the survey. It looks unlikely that Arbitron's numbers will do a very good job of assessing these unless most of the pollees stick to their usual radio diet.

In television, several "sweeps" months are held during which the networks vie heavily to pull in viewers. The programming is tailored to draw attention in a way that no ordinary programming does. Specials, movies, provocative talk-show topics, and big-name stars are sprinkled generously throughout the networks' schedules.

Unlike the situation in television, I don't think the radio stations are aware of the Arbitron survey this month. If so, they don't seem to be wooing my family into listening to them by introducing special programming or having unusual things happen when we tune in.

The only suggestion to the contrary has been that the Giants and A's have begun scoring a few more runs than they'd been doing in preceding weeks. I guess they know that with baseball's waning popularity, radio is one of their last remaining friends. Perhaps someone should fool them into thinking that the Arbitron survey continues right on through to the end of the season!

## Quotations from SAINT AUGUSTINE (354-430)

Will is to grace as the horse is to the rider.

**-de Libero Arbitrio**

The weakness of little children's limbs is innocent, not their souls.

Give me chastity and continence, but not just now.

Give what you command, and command what you will.

**- Confessions**

Hear the other side.

**- De Duabus Animabus**

Necessity has no law.

**- Soliloquiorum, Animae et Deum**

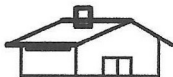
We make a ladder of our vices, if we trample those same vices underfoot.

Anger is a weed; hate is the tree.

The dove loves when it quarrels; the wolf hates when it flatters.

He who created you without you will not justify you without you.

**- Sermons**



## **Block Party Enjoyed by Smallish Crowd**

Our annual block party was held August 26th at Marlin Park under beautiful early evening skies. Eating hamburgers, hotdogs, and salads were about twenty Bowfiners and the Mercado family from Hollister (Roger and Vicki Tappers' son-in-law, Pablo, and daughter, Teresa ). The Andersens provided the tables and barbecue, with father Steve demonstrating fine outdoor culinary skills. Joe Downs and his boys led a game of touch football. Ginger Andersen and Beth Lerman did their best to get their kite up into the lightly gusting winds.

The families who attended got to know each other a bit better and had a very nice time. We hope that our next block party will find even more of us able to participate!

## **4-H Club Formed on Bowfin Street**

At Sequoia Hospital on August 24th, Guy and Kollene Hays (304) had an addition to their family: a healthy, 7 lb., 10 oz., 20-inch long daughter, Haley. She joined a family of three other "H" daughters, Heather (a third grader at Alpha Beacon), Hannah (a kindergartener there), and Holly, aged 3. The girls were thrilled that the baby was a girl, and Holly is ever so pleased to be a "big sister" herself now.

Haley is a fine, happy baby, making little noise, awakening only her mother with her early morning cries for feedings.

May she bring the Hayses much happiness in the days and years to come!

## **Jerry Lerman(344) in Scrabble Superstars Event**

The Milton Bradley Company sponsored a \$100,000 Scrabble Superstars tournament in Las Vegas last month. The top 54 players from the United States and Canada, and the reigning world champion, Mark Nyman (from England), were invited to participate in the 24-game event. Among the invitees was the editor of this paper, Jerry Lerman, who was ranked 10th going into the tournament.

After four days of tough competition, the dust cleared with David Gibson, defending national champion, winning the \$50,000 grand prize. David appeared on television the following morning to describe the event and how he came to amass an amazing 21-3 record against the best opposition in the world.

Lerman's 39th place finish (10 wins, 14 losses, \$100 prize) was a disappointment to him and his family. However, they all had a marvelous time visiting the Las Vegas area (including factory tours and free samples of Ethel M chocolates, Ocean Spray cranberry products, and Kidd's marshmallows) and seeing Utah's Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks. And, if that were not enough, Jerry's last slot machine bet at the airport yielded a \$15 jackpot!

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
October 1st**

## Solution to Last Month's Y'AUG COME!

- 1) AUGIE MARCH
- 2) LAUGH AND THE WORLD LAUGHS  
WITH YOU
- 3) HAUGHTY
- 4) CHARLES LAUGHTON
- 5) MARAUDING
- 6) LANGUAGE
- 7) LADYBUGS
- 8) PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- 9) KIAUGH
- 10) LANUGO

*A GROUP WITHOUT A PARTY IS ONLY  
A MENTAL BLOCK*

### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

#### Eccentric Equations

from Robert Steinwachs' Brain Bafflers, Sterling Publishing, 1993

Help these unknowns make themselves known. Each statement represents a commonplace equation. For example,  $26 = L$  of the  $A$  becomes meaningful by replacing  $L$  with Letters and  $A$  with Alphabet.

- 1)  $7 = W$  of the  $A W$
- 2)  $1,001 = A N$
- 3)  $12 = S$  of the  $Z$
- 4)  $10 = C$
- 5)  $32 = D F$  at which  $W F$
- 6)  $3 = B M (S H T R)$
- 7)  $1,000 = W$  that a  $P$  is  $W$
- 8)  $29 = D$  in  $F$  in a  $L Y$
- 9)  $1 = D$  at a  $T$
- 10)  $8 = P$  of  $S$  in the  $E L$

#### A Foster City Fable

#### The Little-Read Hen

Once upon a time, there was a little read hen, who wanted to put together a passable paper for the amusement of herself and her farmyard neighbors. She had seen the institution of "farmyard" become seriously weakened as the farmers began specializing in particular kinds of agriculture and making money their foremost consideration.

To counter this, she wanted to give the animals a chance to share their best ideas, their news, their thoughts and values, so that they could learn about a world beyond the four walls of their sties and stalls.

Of course, it would take some work to put the paper together. "Articles," thought the hen, "I need something to put in the paper. Who will help me write them?" So she went to see if the pigs in the sty near her coop would lend their hooves.

"No, not we!" said the swine, in utter contempt. "We're much too busy to take the time to help you with such foolish endeavors. We must eat, so tat we grow fat enough to please the farmer."

Disappointed, the hen left the porkers' abode. But their comments about eating led her to think, "Recipes! I bet I can find some animals to provide me with recipes for my paper." She was so hungry for recipes, she would meet a horse!

The ponies in the corral were scurried when they saw the little-read hen strut into their midst. She proclaimed, "I'm putting together a barnyard bulletin, and I need some help. Who will help me write up some recipes for it?"

"Not we!" said the ponies. "We are too busy for such a nonsensical notion. Why we must take our farmer to buy his seed, and then pull his plow, that things will grow on our farm. Just so will our farmer be pleased."



Disconsolate now, the hen turned away from the corral. But the ponies' comments awakened her imagination again. "Growth? Why surely some animals have tips for gardening, so that the whole farmyard could learn to be more productive." She off she went to the meadow for some grass-roots research.

When the cows saw the little-read hen heading their way, they moooved over. "I'm putting together a pastoral paper, so we animals can share our ideas, and I need some help. Who can help me write up some gardening tips?"

"Not we!" declined the bovines. "We are much too busy for such a preposterous pursuit. We must chew our cuds to make the milk to meet our daily quotas. Only in this way can we please our farmer."

Daunted and deflated, the hen left the lea, and headed to her henhouse. She tried to milk inspiration from the cows' rebukes, but sadly she could not.

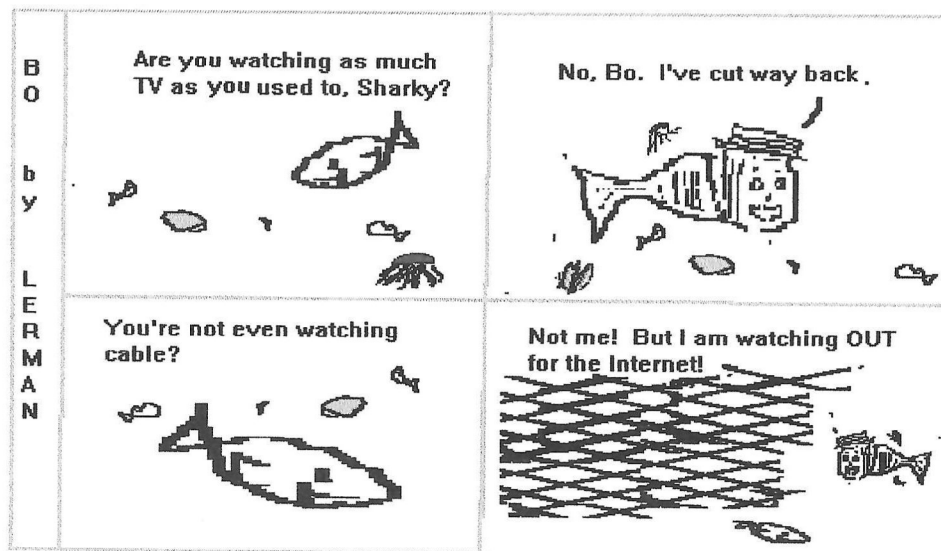
"I'll have no help with this paper, that is clear, except perhaps with Chanticleer!" So the little-read hen and her spouse began to scratch out a newspaper. Articles, recipes, and various ideas made their way from claws to clauses, from talons to tales, and in suprisingly short order the "Henhouse Henquirer" was born. When the "2-H" paper made its way around the barnyard, it found itself an avid readership. "Who wrote this paper?" asked the pigs. "What wonderful recipes! We must try these."

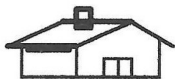
"Where did this flier come from?" neighed the ponies. "What a fine article on growing alfalfa! We must tell the farmer to drive us to the store a bit earlier this year, or he will miss the best planting season."

"Who wrote these lovely articles?" mused the cows? "These words surely flow like the milk of subhuman kindness! Let us chew upon these ideas."

And the little-read hen was no longer little-read, although she was a bit puzzled.

**Moral: If you've got something interesting to say, it's news to me!**





## Stop Junk Mail - Save A Tree

*by Lori Andersen*

Stop junk mail on the whole block -  
Save a forest -  
(and our letter carrier's back!)

Pick up the form from the Post Office, or  
send a note to:

**Mail Preference**

**P.O. Box 9008**

**Farmingdale, NY 11735**

Note: Every time you fill in an entry form for some Store Prize giveaway or buy something from a catalog, your name gets put on "mailing lists" that are bought and sold to mass-marketers. So, every few years you'll need to resend the form to New York.

## Cheap Entertainment

The best discount book around is for sale to benefit Aragon High School Basketball. Hundreds of two-for-one dinners (casual and fine dining), car upgrades, hotel specials, etc.

Books are \$40 each - one practically pays for itself with its first use.

Call Wendy or Ginger Andersen for an entertaining year of great values, at  
**578-1416.**

Thanks. Public education needs our help!



## On Retirement

*by Harmon Brown (345)*

Ah, retirement! Escape from the rat-race. Doing what you want to do, and not what someone else tells you to do - except your spouse. Yet "retirement" can be a two-edged sword. In our culture, which places so much emphasis on the value of work, those who don't work any longer seem to lose their value as citizens, and even their self-worth. Further, many studies show that the mind is like any other organ - use it or lose it. Those who continue to be active and involved are much less likely to "lose their marbles" than those who truly "retire," just by keeping their juices flowing with some sort of mental and physical activities.

The message is clear. NEVER "RETIRE." Think of the leaving of your long-time employment as a "career change," and plan ahead to be involved in some meaningful vocation or avocations. With the average life-span reaching into the 80's, careful long-range planning for this "career change" is as important as one's initial career path, so plan ahead. Cultivate community involvement, hobbies, etc., while still working at your regular job, and try them on for size and fulfillment. Shift gears, but don't let yourself remain on IDLE.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
November 3rd**

**Call the Lermans at 572-9153  
or Drop Off at 344 Bowfin**

## Solution to Last Month's Eccentric Equations








- 1) 7 = Wonders of the Ancient World
- 2) 1,001 = Arabian Nights
- 3) 12 = Signs of the Zodiac
- 4) 10 = Commandments
- 5) 32 = Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes
- 6) 3 = Blind Mice ( See How They Run )
- 7) 1,000 = Words that a Picture is Worth
- 8) 29 = Days in February in a Leap Year
- 9) 1 = Day at a Time
- 10) 8 = Parts of Speech in the English Language



























### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

#### SECOND HELPINGS

( Note: This issue marks the second anniversary of the Bowfin Inquirer )

Fill in the missing words and judiciously transfer the circled letters to discover the mystery message.

1. SECOND- \_ \_   \_ CITIZEN =  
economically or socially deprived
2. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  SECOND! =  
(Hold on there!)
3. \_  \_  \_ SECONDS in a minute.
4. I SECOND THE \_ \_ \_   ! =  
(Now we can vote on it.)

5. SECOND \_ \_  \_  \_ \_ \_  =  
dotage
6. SECOND - \_ \_   \_ = to question a  
decision after its results are known
7. SECOND-   \_ \_  \_ = status of a  
substitute player.
8. SECOND \_ \_   = renewed energy
9. SECOND-  \_ \_    \_ \_ \_  = a painful blistering of the dermis
10. SECOND \_  \_  \_  = a  
subservient role
11. SECOND \_  \_ \_ \_  = "YOU"  
(linguistics)
12. SECOND \_ \_  \_  \_  = a  
property loan with a subordinated lien
13. SECOND \_  \_  = borrowed
14. THIRTY SECONDS \_  \_ \_ TOKYO  
= 1940's film

**Mystery message just in time for All  
Hallows' Eve: (from Ambrose Bierce's  
Devil's Dictionary)**

$\overline{1} \overline{2} \overline{3} \overline{4} \overline{7}' \overline{11}'$

$\overline{1} \overline{5} \overline{6} \overline{12} \overline{9} \overline{7} \overline{10} \overline{9} \overline{8} \overline{11} \overline{9} \overline{12} \overline{10} \overline{14} \overline{5} \overline{6} \overline{9} \overline{8}$

$\overline{13} \overline{7} \overline{5} \overline{12} \overline{13} \overline{4} \overline{3} \overline{9} \overline{10}'$

**Huge Batch! Won't Last!**

## **Scrumptious Oatmeal Cookies**

*from Farm Journal Cookbook*

*contributed by Lori Andersen*

8 c. flour  
1 tbsp salt  
2 tbsp baking soda  
8 c. quick-cooking rolled oats  
2½ c. sugar  
1 tbsp ground sugar  
2 c. melted shortening  
2 c. light molasses  
4 eggs, beaten  
¼ c. hot water  
3 c. raisins, chopped  
2 c. chopped nuts

Sift the flour, salt and baking soda together and set aside.

Mix the oats, sugar, and ginger together in a very large bowl.

Add the shortening, molasses, eggs, and water to the oats, stir in flour, raisins, and nuts.

Roll dough ¼ inch thick and cut with festive cookie cutters - or drop from teaspoon and flatten a little.

Bake on lightly greased pans, 2 to 3 inches apart, at 375° for 8 to 10 minutes.

Also great with chopped dates or finely chopped dried apricots, instead of raisins.

Yes, chocoholics: chocolate chips can be added, too!

## **No Calorie Chocolate Bundt Cake**

*(Aragon High School PTA)*

1 Pkg "Swiss" chocolate cake mix  
(Duncan Hines)  
1 4 oz. instant chocolate pudding mix  
(NOT sugar free)  
1 c. sour cream  
4 eggs  
½ c. oil  
¾ c. water  
1½ c. chocolate chips

Blend everything together - adding chocolate chips last.

Bake in bundt pan (teflon, if you want the cake to come out of the pan!) at 350° for 50 to 60 minutes.

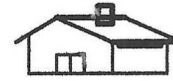
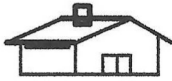
Dust with sifted powdered sugar when well-cooled.

*No calories? Just kidding -  
life is short, play hard, eat cake!*

- Lori Andersen







## The Amazing Chain Column

by Jon Carroll (S.F. Chronicle, Nov. 6, 1995)

This column has been around the world eight times. It was started by a doctor in the Philippines. His island was spared when a volcano blew up. The volcano was in Central America. The chain works.

Please do not break the chain.

A man in Kansas City broke the chain, and he still lives in Kansas City. The chain works.

The amazing chain column has been in Russia and China. People of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds have kept the chain going. It has been translated into 34 languages. A man in France inherited \$1 million. "Why do I have American money?" he asked. But he had not broken the chain. The chain works. Do not break the chain.

There are instructions with the chain. These are the instructions for the chain. We implore you to follow them. A woman in Mexico laughed ha ha at the instructions and today she is deader than the movie career of Eddie Murphy. Please do not break the chain.

1. Clip the amazing chain column from the newspaper.
2. Do not make any duplicates of the amazing chain column. The management of the San Francisco Chronicle has already made hundreds of thousands of duplicates. The San Francisco Gate has already pushed the amazing chain column into cyberspace. We do not need any more damn chain columns running around.
3. Put the amazing chain column on your refrigerator. If you do not have a refrigerator, how do you keep your perishable food cold?
4. Leave the amazing chain column on your refrigerator for two weeks. When people enter the room, point to the column and say, "This is the amazing chain column. It will bring me good luck. Are you the messenger of my good fortune? Please give me all the cash on your person, and the prophecy will be fulfilled. The amazing chain column will work in your life as well, for nothing but good will come to he or she who does not break the chain." If your visitors fail to give you money, put them in the refrigerator. They have broken the chain. Please don't break the chain. The chain works.

A woman in Iowa City clipped the amazing chain column out of her newspaper, but she failed to put it on her refrigerator. Within days, a

political candidate visited her home with a TV crew and talked for many hours about nothing at all. She became despondent and abused her poultry. She had broken the chain. Please do not break the chain. The chain works.

Do you have access yourself to a newspaper column? Do you write about food, wine, gardening, politics, religion, film, the base utterances of television actors, the decline of mutual funds, the changing sexual mores of today's teenagers, model airplanes, stamps, coins, bridge, chess or airline travel?

Simply substitute the amazing chain column for your regular column. There is no need to explain why you have done so, because the amazing chain column is self-explanatory. It is a gift to your readers, the gift of good fortune if they do not break the chain.

A columnist in New York City broke the chain, and today that man is Jimmy Breslin. do you want to be Jimmy Breslin and have to talk in an odd fashion and look in the mirror every morning and pray to God for a better nose? Then you better use your newspaper space to reprint the amazing chain column. Do not break the chain. The chain works.

Some laugh at the amazing chain column and say that it is all superstitious. How can a newspaper column change the course of destiny? Well, but also: How can Kenny G. continue to sell his music? There are many mysteries in the world, and we do not understand them. That's why they're mysteries.

Please do not delay. Find the scissors right now; they're in the drawer with the old maps and the loose screwdrivers. Cut out the amazing chain column. Put it on your refrigerator. I will be coming by later to check.

Do not break the chain. The chain works.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:  
December 2nd**

**Call the Lermans at 572-9153  
or Drop Off at 344 Bowfin**

## Solution to Last Month's JUST A SECOND

- 1) second CLASS citizen
- 2) JUST A second
- 3) SIXTY seconds in a minute
- 4) I second the MOTION
- 5) second CHILDHOOD
- 6) second-GUESS
- 7) second STRING
- 8) second WIND
- 9) second-DEGREE BURN
- 10) second FIDDLE
- 11) second PERSON
- 12) second MORTGAGE
- 13) secondHAND
- 14) thirty seconds OVER Tokyo

*Secret Message:*

SAINT, n. :

A DEAD SINNER REVISED AND EDITED

### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

#### RANK THE RANKS

Do you know how many Americans today served in its Armed Forces? In July, 1992, according to the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, approximately 26,981,000 of U.S. civilians were veterans. Your challenge this month is to list the following categories of these veterans in descending order of size. The largest naturally is (A), to start you off. The rest won't be so easy!

- (A) Total veterans in civilian life
- (B) Total wartime veterans
- (C) Persian Gulf War with service in Vietnam era
- (D) Persian Gulf War with no prior wartime service
- (E) Vietnam era with service in Korean conflict
- (F) Vietnam era with no prior wartime service
- (G) Korean conflict with service in WWII
- (H) Korean conflict with no prior wartime service
- (I) World War II
- (J) World War I
- (K) Peacetime, post-Vietnam era
- (L) Peacetime, service between Korean conflict and Vietnam era only

Hint: The sizes of these 12 categories, in thousands, when put in descending order are:

26,981  
20,828  
8,500  
7,718  
3,958  
3,060  
2,911  
823  
618  
560  
111  
34

### Quotations for Veterans' Day

from The Columbia Dictionary of Quotations

*Soldiers have many faults, but they have one redeeming merit; they are never worshippers of force. Soldiers more than any other men are taught severely and systematically that might is not right. The fact is obvious. The might is in the hundred men who obey. The right (or what is held to be right) is in the one man who commands them.*

G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), British author. All Things Considered, "Thoughts Around Koeppenick" (1908).

*The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.*

Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), U.S. Republican politician, president. Speech, 27 July 1920, Northampton, Massachusetts, accepting the Republican vice-presidential nomination.

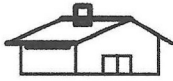


*I had rather have a plain, russet-coated Captain, that knows what he fights for, and loves what he knows, than that which you call a Gentle-man and is nothing else.*

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), Parliamentary general, Lord Protector of England. Letter, Sept. 1643

*Conscription may have been good for the country, but it damn near killed the army.*

Sir Richard Hull (b. 1907), British general.



**Book Review**

**The Children's Machine:  
Rethinking School in the Age of the  
Computer**

by Seymour Papert

Reviewed by Jerry Lerman

When I attended a PTA meeting recently, it was announced that a new fundraising program was being launched. Audubon's computer lab was sorely out of date, filled with 1982-vintage Apple IIe computers. Newer models were needed to make the lab more suited to the realities of today.

But this argument aroused my skepticism. What have computers done for the schools, really? The programs the children used on the day-off I supervised them in computer lab were largely drills disguised as games. I thought it a waste of money to pour more money down the modernization drain - especially if more critical needs were not being met.

Later I did some research on the Web, and found a bibliographic reference to Papert's book (241 pp., Basic Books, 1993) recommending it highly. I waited patiently for the library to get its copy returned, and then sped headlong into its fascinating contents.

Papert is a Mathematics professor at M.I.T., and the author of the child-oriented programming language LOGO. He is a pioneer in the study of how computers can revolutionize education.

His book begins with an apt analogy. Imagine medical professionals from the 1890's visiting a modern hospital operating room, replete with all sorts of technological machinery that today's doctors use to the great advantage of us all. Papert expects they would be shocked; they would hardly have an inkling what was happening in the room. On the other hand, teachers from the 1890's would have quite a different reaction when visiting 1990 classrooms: the processes we use

for teaching our children have hardly changed at all! Given how much we've managed to advance in so many other fields, why has the process of education not flourished along with it?

The computer, properly employed, provides a path toward the *megachange* that has yet to occur in education, the author contends. It can broaden the learning vistas of our students, helping them develop through concrete thinking into *bricoleurs* (*a la* French social anthropologist, Claude Levi-Strauss), resourceful people who learn to apply whatever tools they have to work their way toward solving problems.

We are treated to several instances where children's learning skills and self-esteem grew remarkably and in unexpected ways when they worked in a "Lego-LOGO" *laboratory*, which brought building-block toys and computers together in a setting that seemed more like a playground than a school. These stories show us a paradox, however: the great results are precisely the type that will confound any simplistic measuring system like standardized tests. The growth usually takes time to become apparent, and it is not necessarily in areas that school curriculum developers consider consistent with the academic year's goals.

Papert has many bones to pick with our stultifying education system. Because he acknowledges that it will be difficult to change it, he suggests methods to help us overcome the system's innate hostility to computers, and urges parents and teachers to do what they can to end the inertia.

It had been this very inertia that had me thinking a computer fund-raiser would be a waste. Now I'm not so sure.

**DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
NEXT MONTH'S B.I.:**

**January 6th**

**Call the Lermans at 572-9153  
or Drop Off at 344 Bowfin**

## Solution to Last Month's RANK THE RANKS

- (A) Total veterans in civilian life 26,981  
 (B) Total wartime veterans 20,828  
 (I) World War II 8,500  
 (F) Vietnam era with no prior wartime service 7,718  
 (H) Korean conflict with no prior wartime service 3,958  
 (K) Peacetime, post-Vietnam era 3,060  
 (L) Peacetime, service between Korean conflict and Vietnam era only 2,911  
 (G) Korean conflict with service in WWII - 823  
 (D) Persian Gulf War with no prior wartime service 618  
 (E) Vietnam era with service in Korean conflict 560  
 (C) Persian Gulf War with service in Vietnam era 111  
 (J) World War I 34

### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ

#### PLAYING WITH A FULL DEC?

Fill in the answers to the following clues, and transfer the circled letters to the mystery question: a gentle reminder for the very busy at this holiday season.

1. DEC \_ ⊖ ⊖ \_ = make known clearly
2. \_ \_ DEC \_ \_ ⊖ ⊖ = in doubt or wavering
3. \_ \_ DE \_ ⊖ C ⊖ \_ \_ = lacking in propriety
4. DE ⊖ \_ \_ C \_ = abnormal behavior
5. ⊖ \_ DE \_ C ⊖ \_ \_ ⊖ = the lowest social stratum

6. DEC \_ \_ ⊖ ⊖ = city in Illinois and Alabama

7. \_ \_ D \_ \_ E \_ \_ ⊖ \_ C \_  
 ⊖ \_ ⊖ \_ = Fourth of July

8. DE ⊖ ⊖ C \_ ⊖ \_ ⊖ =  
 government by the people

9. D \_ E \_ C ⊖ \_ \_ \_ = wetting thoroughly

10. ⊖ \_ \_ DEC ⊖ \_ \_ = tunnel near Orinda

#### Gentle Reminder:

9 3 4 2    8 10 6

8 1 3 5 7 2    7 8 5 1

10 8 6 7 5    ?

#### One Family's Struggle Against Junk Mail

After publishing the address that was supposed to free our block of unsightly mail, I decided to take my own advice and try it out. No obvious results in the first few weeks, despite our fervent wishes. These past two weeks appear to have had a reduction in such mail, however. By next month we should know if this modest dream has, indeed, come true!