



Family members star in local theatricals - Dustin, Michael Merica, Tim, Chris and Nathan all play roles in local productions

March set a new record for theatrical activity in the family.

San Diego/East County CYT presents



show very much, and congratulate Dustin on his fine performance.

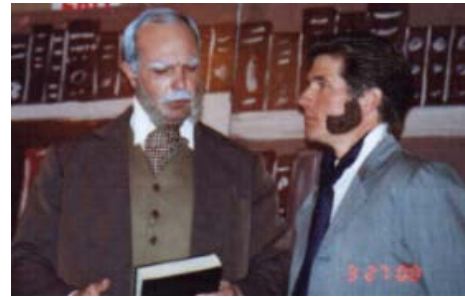
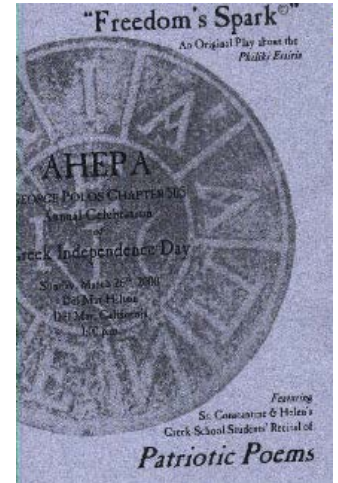
Greek Independence Day celebrated with poetry reading and original play

For the second year in a row we had the chance to join in with the local Greek community to celebrate the anniversary of the securing of independence by a group of dedicated individuals who organized and implemented the revolution which finally freed Greece from domination by the Ottoman Turks. After a few introductory remarks, and the singing of the US and Greek national anthems, we all enjoyed a great buffet lunch. Afterwards, children from the St. Constantine & Helen's Greek School recited (in Greek) a series of patriotic poems. Next came the presentation of "Freedom's Spark", an original play dramatizing the inspiration for the Greek Revolution of 1812. The play was written and directed by Michael, and he also

There were four productions, and conflicts due to overlapping dates made it impossible to personally cover all of them. However, we did have the chance to see Dustin Benesch star in the lead role in the San Diego/East County CYT production of *The Bobbit*. He outdid himself in the starring role as Bilbo. This part requires considerable time on stage, with speaking, singing and dancing roles. It was an exceptionally fine performance, with lots of music, lavish costumes, scenery, and special effects. We all enjoyed the



played the lead role, as Thanassi Tsakaliff. The play opens in 1814, in Odessa, Russia, in the study of Thanassi Tsakaloff. He has great wealth and an honorable place in society but, as a Greek unable to live in his homeland, he is a man willing to sacrifice all he has to help free Greece from the tyranny of the Ottoman Turks. It is this image, Mother Hellas tortured by her Turkish oppression, calling to her far-flung children and despairing of her abandonment, that fills his dream as he dozes in his armchair.



Michael did an outstanding job of writing, directing, and acting, and the performance was much enjoyed by the large audience.

Tim Riel plays important role in school play

Because of a conflict with Dustin's performance, we were unable to attend Tim's play, but we have the following report from Ed Riel, the Southwestern District Correspondent to the Riel Family Newsletter.

Tim played a great supporting role in Point Loma High's Musical "Little Shop of Horrors". He was the off stage singing voice for the plant, Audrey II; you might remember from the movie the song "supertime" (feed me). While I may be a biased reporter, I honestly felt Tim showed an ability to steal a scene, from a field of very good actors, with his voice alone. Bravo, I say!

We certainly are sorry we could not make the performance, and hope that things will be different for the next show.

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We also were unable to attend the Point Loma High School's 40th annual production of "Madcaps". Both Chris and Nathan were a part of the show, and we have Ed's report.

Also on stage this month were Nathan and Christopher as dancers for this year's MADCAPS "Rock the World" charity musical show. MADCAPS (Mothers and Daughters Club Assisting Philanthropies) is a city wide volunteer program for teens and their mothers, that ends each year with this charity money raising show. The senior girls enlist senior boys to help in the performance. The show has live music and professionally choreographed musical numbers that took many hours of practice. The final effect was very entertaining. We applauded our sons for taking the time out from their studies, their work, and their otherwise carefree senior life to assist this worthy organization.



We are sorry we missed both these performances, and the opportunity to get some photos. We promise to do better next time. In the meantime, CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO PERFORMED SO WELL!!

XXX Travel News UUU

Listy is on the move again, on another teaching seminar job for BER. We reproduce three e-mail letters, written while on the road in the Mid-west.

3/27/00 3:02 P.M. - Dad, I was thinking of you and Mom as we were driving through Indiana. We're in Indianapolis today and off to Detroit and other cities later. Hope all is well with you and Mom. Didn't you live here at one time? Hard to imagine growing up out here...sure am glad you moved to San Diego...

3/27/00 7:23 P.M. I forgot to tell you...today was a first ever for me and a first for my program manager as well...I had straight perfect 7's in the two categories I'm rated on by my participants (7 is the highest)...content and contribution of the instructor...they really liked me out here in your old home town...Grand Rapids...does that sound close to Lafettee?? love always to you and Mom, Listy

(Editors note - The above inspired an e-mail reply to the effect that the "old home town" is West Lafayette, Indiana, the home of Purdue University, where I attended graduate school many years ago. West Lafayette also is the home town of three well-known local persons, Richard, Edward, and Margaret.)

3/28/00 6:18 P.M. I was in Indiana first Fort Wayne and then Indianapolis...saw Purdue on the map and thought of you there too...we drove to Indianapolis so I got a chance to see what Indiana looks like...good thing you moved. We visited the Indy 500 speedway...that was pretty cool...saw downtown stuff and then took a tiny little plane to Grand Rapids...We're driving the rest of the time...working our way towards Detroit...and then I get to come home on Friday. Listy

Thanks, Listy, for your exciting reports on your travels through the wilds of Indiana and Michigan. We can imagine how happy you are to get back to good old San Diego! Also, we congratulate you on getting top ratings from those attending your class. Now is a good time to put in for a pay raise, while you are hot.

In addition to the acting news, Ed passed on to us copies of e-mail from Kevin, and it appears that he is alternately being worked to death at the University and partied to death in London, and other places of interest. His reports are too long to reproduce, but we can summarize what is going on.

He is taking only two subjects, "Foundations of Social science" and "English Literature from 1919 to the Present". Both courses involve reading lots of long and complicated books. Typical authors are Freud, Marx, Weber, Joyce, and Wolf. The course work also includes writing lots of essays, and the result is that when he is busy he is really busy.

However, Kevin is finding time to see some of the sights, and also to make lots of new friend, from all over Europe. He has seen the sights of London, visited a few (?) pubs, and attended some fun parties. He also is getting in some surfing, finding the water cold and the surf pretty good. In one contest he made it to the second to last round, and at that time he was up against prominent surfers featured in

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British surfing magazines and whose boards displayed a consortium of sponsorship by companies over the 1 billion dollar gross product cap. So Kevin was pleased to get as far as he did, Commenting "I surfed ten times better than I could have hoped". It certainly sounds like Kevin is having a great time, and the best is yet to come. The next plan is a trip to Paris, but the big news is the forthcoming family visit, as outlined by Ed.

Fortunately, Kevin has friends and family. Firstly, his girl friend from San Diego, Amy, just arrived in England to travel with him to the city of Paris (is that dangerous or what!). Assuming his survival, Kevin will then meet in London with Jan, her brother Wayne, his wife Carol, and Jan's mother, who is Scottish, for a tour of the old country. It is a trip that Jan's family has talked about for years and having Kevin there was the motivation to make it a reality.

We will be looking forward to a full report on the visit to Scotland and elsewhere.

Bryce Sorem wins essay contest

SERRA MESA FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Dear Essay Contestant,

The judges have chosen your essay as one of the top three essays submitted from your school.

You, your family, and teacher are invited to attend an award ceremony to receive recognition for your entry on

Monday, April 10, 2000

6:30 PM

At the

**Serra Mesa Library
3440 Sandrock Road**

This will be an opportunity to meet the winners from other schools and for us to share in your success.

If you need more information you may call 858-573-1396

Sincerely,

Maddie Volper
President, Serra Mesa Friends of the Library

Bryce told us that the essay was about how and why students should use the library to further enhance their education and growth. Congratulations, Bryce, on a job well done!!

More travel news

Francie is on the move again. Recently, She returned from a visit to Montana. In early April she is off to Cleveland, Ohio, and then a trip to Seattle. Also, this month is the time for the Boston Marathon, and Bob and Listy will be there, Listy running and Bob watching, of course. We imagine there will be some sightseeing also, and look forward to a full report when they get back.

Michael and Moreg celebrate 50th



Michael and Morag Merica

would like you to join them

for a luncheon to celebrate their

Golden Wedding

on Sunday, 26th March at 12.30 p.m. at their home

Recently we received the above invitation, and were sorry that we could not be with Grandma's brother and sister-in-law on that happy celebration day. Although a little late, we want to extend our heartiest congratulations to the Merica family in Manchester.

Birthday calendar for April

Dustin Benesch	April 3	15
Brian Riel	April 5	11
Robert Riel	April 9	43
Kevin Riel	April 11	21
Jan Riel	April 21	52

There were no birthday celebrations to report, and Grandma and Grandpa are falling behind again!. Lets go, kids, check with us!

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Special investigation report - Conflict of interest issue raised by Francie

In an ongoing investigation of the alleged "power shopping" incident involving the accused, Bruce Hartman, we have been waiting anxiously for a ruling from the honorable and esteemed senior member of the Innocent Bystanders organization. In the meantime, however, a new and unexpected development has surfaced. We received the following communication from Francie Sorem, which we reproduce as follows.

Dear Editor RFNL

This letter is in response to the February issue of RFNL. A certain member of the Innocent Bystanders was spotted shopping on the biggest shopping day of the year. I have certain comments to make before a judgement is made in this case.

First of all, in support of this fine upstanding member, I would like to stress a viable argument in his defense. Now I think that my expertise in this area can be verified by looking at my record. That would be, of course, my credit card record. I think that given my experience and tenure of years as a well documented shopper, (not just locally but with a national and international ranking as well), my appearance here as an expert is beyond reproach. Having been to the largest shopping mall in America, no less than three times, and the largest mall in the World once, qualifies me to speak on Bruce's behalf. Regardless of the day, or their advertising referring to "The Softer Side of Sears", that particular warehouse of appliances and tools could hardly be referred to as "shopping". I believe that going to a glorified "hardware store" falls into the category of "errand running" and thus the infraction is unsubstantiated due to the non compliance to the actual art (and I hold this view strongly!) of shopping.

Now my second point is though I am in support of this member 100%, I feel that taking this to the head of the Innocent Bystanders is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house. I see a direct conflict of partisanship and feel that this issue should be decided by an unbiased third party. Let's move the decision to the highest court officer in the Riel Family, the esteemed Commissioner. I feel his ruling will be expedient, judicial, and fair (slight smirk here).

I now leave this open to the friendly and fair discussion among all the constituents of this fine family.

Somewhat Respectfully,
Francie Sorem S.S.S. *

* Super Shopping Specialist

Although we have the utmost confidence in the integrity and wisdom of Professor Mehan, we tend to agree that asking him to render a judgement in this matter represents a serious conflict of interest, and one which he should not be asked to resolve. Therefore, we accept the recommendation put forth by Francie, and hereby assign to the honorable commissioner of the Riel Bowl, Robert D. Riel, the responsibility to render a judgement in this case. We have informally discussed this assignment with the

Commissioner, and he has generously agreed to thank the assignment under consideration. **Watch this space for the latest developments in this complicated case!**

Sports News...

We have the following sports report from Katy Riel.

Brian and Katy's swimming

In a championship swim meet Katy took 7th place in the Butterfly out of 36 girls in her age group. Also, Brian took 3rd in relay out of 10 or more teams. Katy and Brian both have C times right now, but are just a few seconds away to make B times.

Thanks, Katy, for this report, and we hope to hear more from you about future events.

Some news from Dubuque, Iowa

Recently we received a communication from Grandma's old friend from her college days, Sister Mary Pascale.

Dear Edith and Frank

March 9, 2000

Thank you for your note at Christmas. You have such a wonderful family, just as you used to say you wanted. Margaret has been so good in keeping in touch. God bless all of you!



I am fine so far. I do use a walker and am in the infirmary, but get out to mass, meals, and meetings. Also, I go out to restaurants once a week, usually.

I am glad to hear you are well. You are in my prayers! Please keep me in yours.

Love in Jesus, Sr. M. Paschal

St. Patrick's Day party

We were pleased to be invited to celebrate this day with Michael, Linda, Aunt Isa, and many family friends. We will report the details, plus pictures, in the May issue.

April snow - Once again it snowed on April 1st, and we will have the whole story in the May issue of RFNL.