

Inheritance

from page 9

You may get only one inheritance in your life ~ so do whatever you can to make the most of it.

Edward Jones, its financial advisors and employees do not provide tax or legal advice.

You should consult with a qualified tax or legal professional for advice on your specific situation.

Submitted by Dean M. Seligman dean.seligman@edwardjones.com •

Frankly

from page 6

“lady” had nothing to say about the encounter, which Pitino admits to, for a long, long time, then cried rape and tried to extort the highly paid coach.

Seems like the lady is facing trouble from the law now. Apparently, she attempted to extort a cool \$10 mil from the coach. Which is a crime, I believe. Pitino, on the other side of the table, is probably facing a boatload of grief from his wife, his kids, the Louisville administration, his priest, and assorted Internet nuts. Let alone what the coach will face when he and his team take to the road this fall. Don't think that some of those amped up college kids will make up some creative signage to welcome Pitino into their gyms, do ya?

Never like to see a guy get injured. But I will admit that when I saw the report that

St. Louis Ram QB Marc “Tin Man” Bulger had broken the pinkie on his throwing hand and would be out two weeks or so, I didn't shed a tear. Bulger has been horrible the past two seasons, winning only four of his last 27 starts. Baltimore retreat Kyle Boller takes over the reins of the Lamb offense, which is already playing without presumed top receiver Donnie Avery, who broke his foot and will probably miss a couple of games in the regular season.

Course, the last time a starting Ram QB went down in preseason, ex-grocery store-bagger Kurt Warner took over behind center and led the team to a magical season that resulted in a hard-to-believe Super Bowl win. That was the 1999/2000 season, for those who don't remember.

Skater

from page 7

“Coach Boomstra is the best coach in the world,” says Koenig.

Koenig is also training with Sol Wroclawsky, a self-described speed and endurance trainer. Wroclawsky, who has helped train professional athletes like Mira Costa's Michael Okwo and the NFL's newest \$60 million player Terrell Suggs, notes that Koenig's work ethic rivals those of any athlete he has ever coached. “She is the hardest working athlete I have ever worked with and she keeps improving with each workout,” he says.

Koenig, under the watchful eye of Wroclawsky, was on the Mira Costa track working out with a device that Wroclawsky invented called a “Riksha.” The device, which has a wheel on the back, attaches to the back of the athlete as he/she runs. The Riksha has a built-in computer to measure the athlete's progress, and the device helps force the legs to run faster and helps to improve endurance and strength. It's better than using the runner's parachute, according to Wroclawsky, because of the muscles used and the immediate feedback with its on-board computer.

Koenig says she was that close, narrowing her thumb and forefinger slightly apart, to making the 2006 Olympic team. But during one of her qualifying heats, she was disqualified. She believes she has corrected everything that will give her the opportunity to make the team this year. She said that the only thing she needs to improve on is technique and she's working on that five days a week at the rink in Long Beach with her coach. “There's only one thing keeping me from making the team and I'm working on that with Coach Boomstra,” she says.

Koenig feels that the United States' main rivals at the 2010 Olympics will be Korea, Canada and China although there might be other countries that could give them some difficulty. So what will it take to get Koenig to the podium in February 2010? “Confidence,” she says matter-of-factly.

Koenig has the confidence to add to her overflowing trophy case, and her country has the confidence in her that she'll be standing on the podium receiving her Olympic medal in Vancouver.

Tranquility

from front page

pretty much when you can get there. It takes me time to settle in, calm down and relax. But finally I do, enjoying afternoons of laying out on the deck, savoring a delicious novel in the hot, dry air.

Manhattan Beach has a whole other feel. Once home, from wherever I have been, but most particularly from Durango, I am immediately swallowed up by the energy here. I just walk out my door and there is a neighbor to talk to, or one with whom I can share a glass of wine. Or I walk through town and stop in at one of several shops where I chat with the proprietor. I pass new restaurants I still want to try, as well as old favorites for pancakes. People of all ages walk briskly, talk quickly, and scurry with purpose from one commitment to the next. To jog, stroll, or power walk along The Strand is an ongoing happening, a magnet for people from all about, neighbors to foreigners. Wherever you walk in Manhattan Beach, it is a feast for the eyes. Each house, front door and garden is different, whether an older well-loved beach cottage or a new modern state-of-the-art creation. It is hard to be lonely or bored here. There is the buzz of life all about.

The thing that one has to stretch for is tranquility. To find solitude, I need to burrow

down inside my house, or sit on the beach tuning the world out. Best of all is a walk alone along the shoreline. On a less frenzied weekday, it is almost as good as a hike in the mountains. That's why many of us prefer Manhattan Beach in the winter.

No Pollyanna, I am not immune to the signs of urban blight. Sometimes I think I will scream if one more motorcycle with no muffler guns down Manhattan Avenue. Infuriating, don't you think? They make the houses along the street shake. And aren't you just a little turned off from entering some of our restaurants or markets that have filthy, greasy sidewalks out front. Would it be so hard to have them steam cleaned from time to time? Or is that just life in the city?

Yet for me, Manhattan Beach is home. Durango is a great refresher for the soul and a workout for the body, hiking those mountain trails. But year-round, it would be too quiet for me, especially during the long, dark days of winter. Even Palos Verdes, where I used to live, where the yards are larger and the gardens lovelier, was a good place to live. But given a choice, now, I am most at home with the variety, accessibility and energy of the beach.

Karen Russo can be reached at kkrusso@aol.com. •

Opinion

from page 5

year, and are now considering ways to stop their economies from overheating. This is proving to be **NOT** a worldwide recession, but a U.S. recession based on the decisions we have made. Other countries were right.

Has any Administration made more errors in handling an economy? The fact of the

matter is that we have an economy so anemic and a debt load so great that all discussions of health care reform, global warming, and paying for additional combat troops around the world are being reduced to academic exercises. We're broke, folks. •

Penguin

from page 5

who blew 259 people, most of them Americans, out of the sky. And was responsible for another 11 unfortunate people on the ground being killed as the airplane debris crashed to the surface in Lockerbie.

Release the corporate embezzler or the tax cheat. Not a mass murderer. Do you realize that Megrahi served less than 100 months in confinement for destroying, for butchering 270 people? And shattering the lives of their parents, their husbands, their wives, their children? Incredible.

Of course, there are some who say that Megrahi was innocent of the charges in the Pan Am disaster. In fact, an independent judicial commission in Scotland a few years back released a statement that Megrahi “may have suffered a miscarriage of justice.” Something about an unreliable prosecution witness.

One of the people who lost a family member in the crash has come out on Megrahi's side. “He should be able to go straight home to his family and spend his last days there,” said Jim Swire, whose daughter perished in the bombing. Swire also told the *BBC* that “I don't believe for a moment that this man was involved in the way that he was found to have been involved.”

Market

from page 11

their private property rights taken away.” And as a matter of course, he added, “I consider every one of my clients as a friend.”

A South Bay real estate veteran of over 30 years, Goddard is president-elect of the California Association of Realtors, which represents upwards of 180,000 real estate professionals. The South Bay Association of Realtors claims about 4,000 local Realtors. All three groups are dedicated to providing education and support to the Realtor community. They also promote the ethical standards --- spelled-out duties to one's clients, the public and fellow professionals --- on which the Realtor concept was based soon after the trade group was founded in the early 1900s.

“We're a conduit to everything that's happening,” offered Kathy Kelly, executive director for the South Bay association. She notes that maintaining the flow of communication between her association and member Realtors, and by extension their clients, has been increasingly challenging, as the generational gaps between individual Realtors has grown and communication technologies have changed almost at lightning speeds. “We need to find a way to cater to both old and young,” Kelly said. The local association has made much more use recently on different online communication programs, along with a stepped up presence on *Twitter* and Internet blogging sites.

At the same time, the National Association of Realtors has apparently been working toward making the housing market friendlier for consumers again. According to a report filed earlier this month by the Associated Press, the NAR disclosed it spent more than \$3.8 million lobbying the federal government in the second quarter for measures that would help buoy the housing market, according to a recent disclosure form.

The group pushed for greater tax credits for first-time homebuyers, efforts to prevent foreclosures, and legislation that would protect consumers from dishonest lending practices. The association, which has spent more than \$9.5 million lobbying in Washington,

Okay, rational people can agree to disagree. But according to the courts, dude was found guilty and should have spent the rest of his putrid life rotting away in a prison cell. So said Kara Welz, who lost her brother in the bombing. Speaking of the release of Megrahi, Welz said, “It's horrible. I don't show compassion for someone who showed no remorse.”

Speaking of remorse, it looks like the incredibly popular cash for clunkers car ditching program petered out a few weeks early. Never did offload the old Camry. Guess I lost that conversation with the wife.

And two of the icons in the news game passed away last week. Venerable *CNN* commentator Robert Novak succumbed to cancer at the age of 78. The conservative columnist was a staple on *CNN* for years, appearing on many of their bombastic panel shows, taking the “right” side against the perceived lefties who run the network.

And Don Hewitt, the man credited with starting the CBS Sunday night staple *60 Minutes*, also went to a better resting place. Or so they say.

Hewitt was a CBS news guy forever and had been battling pancreatic cancer. He was 86.

also focused its efforts on issues involving housing discrimination, tenant evictions and homeowners' insurance.

Naturally, not all that Realtors do is met with smiles. One of the few but still recurring complaints posted on the Internet about Realtors is that they don't present honest public assessments of market trends. For example, on the *Wallet Pop* website, blogger Zac Bissonette complains, “I recently saw a commercial paid for by the National Association of Realtors informing us that no matter what anyone says, it's a great time to buy... Maybe that's true. With interest rates this low and a wide selection of homes available in many markets, I think it probably is.”

“But the problem is that the National Association of Realtors has been running these ads forever,” Bissonette continued. “In a February 2008 commercial, the NAR broadcast a commercial explaining that buying a home is ‘a good move, for your family, and toward building long-term wealth.’ In most markets, that turned out not to be the case, with many buyers who put 20 percent down already under water.”

The recent market trends have been particularly hard on traditional buyers, no question, said Goddard. But, that doesn't diminish the fact that with a little creativity and the necessary resources, there's always a way to make a real estate investment pay off. Realtor Robert Freedman of Manhattan Beach said, “The real estate market is like a huge pendulum that swings back and forth, but real estate prices have generally always continued to rise.” Nobody needs a “crystal ball to tell us real estate will be going up again,” he added.

“Every single day, we're faced with different challenges in our efforts to support Realtors and purchasers,” whether they're problems with a particular sale or gripes about how Realtors get their message out to the public, said Kelly.

But, “I think that those ongoing challenges keep us sharp.” Such a process, she said, “assures that the helping hand we offer really does extend help.”