

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

Are you familiar with the Michael Brewer story? Brewer is the 15-year-old Florida kid who was doused with rubbing alcohol and set on fire about seven weeks ago by a group of teenaged monsters. Allegedly. Not the part of the heinous act of lighting another human being on fire. There is no alleged in that act. It happened. And it left Brewer with second and third degree burns over two-thirds of his body. The young man is recovering, best as possible, at the Jackson Memorial Hospital's burn center.

Brewer faces a long and painful road to recovery from the burns perpetrated upon him by the attempted murderers. He could be hospitalized for the foreseeable future and faces more arduous skin graft surgeries and months of painful physical rehabilitation. All, it seems because of a nearly stolen bicycle.

Said Dr. Nicholas Namias, medical director of the burn center, "People are writing horror stories...but people just can't imagine the kind of sickness that we are talking about." Namias was asked about the "survivability" of such a dastardly attack. "Surviving is a miracle of modern medicine and about the technology and the things we do," he said. "This is not like a gunshot, where you come out of the (operating room) and say everything is going to be OK."

So what was the rationale? What possible reason could a group of teenagers have conjured up in their sick minds to make it seem that it would be okay to light someone on fire? Someone with whom they attended middle school?

Seems that the story is that one of the monsters was believed to have attempted to rip off a bicycle belonging to Michael's father. Reports are that the bike larceny was thwarted and that the attempted thievery was reported to the local authorities. One of the

group of five was taken into custody, but was soon released.

This kid gathered up his posse of idiots, cuz it takes a real "man" to confront someone five on one, and these losers approached Brewer outside an apartment complex, doused the kid in rubbing alcohol and lit the boy on fire! Apparently the hostilities began because Brewer owed one of the punks \$40 and hadn't anted up. So, one of the kids tried to steal the bicycle in lieu of waiting for his money.

A crummy bicycle, \$40 bucks, whatever. Something went haywire down in Florida on October 12. Of the five kids involved in the attack, three have been charged with attempted murder. One fine young man, the presumed ringleader of the group, Mathew Bent, seems to have been following in a wonderful family tradition.

According to published reports, Mathew's proud dad, one Dennis Bent, was involved in a stabbing incident back in 1993. The senior Bent, said the story, and "two other men broke into the Boca Raton home of Andrew McCleary. Bent claimed McCleary owed him some money, so they took valuables and threatened to kill him. Police say Bent stabbed him multiple times with a scissors in the stomach, face and legs."

Nice role model, eh? Thanks, Dad. Not talking an Ozzie and Harriet Nelson family sitcom, are we? I guess the apple, or the dirt-bag felon, doesn't fall far from the tree, does it?

The good news, if there can be any good news when a group of derelict kids decide to light another kid on fire, is that good people, and make no mistake about this, most of *you*, most of *us*, are damn good people, have rallied to support the Brewer boy and his family,

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Dear Carol



Dear Carol,

We decided that this year we are going to save time and money by sending out email greetings to family and friends. We'll create a letter with pictures of the family through the year and send it via email to all of the people we usually send cards. The problem is some of our older family members don't have email or even a computer. We want to send them family greetings and pictures but don't want to go to the trouble of writing and mailing cards. How can we get them to join the 21st Century?

Holiday Hal

Dear Hal,

The first thing you can do is look at your signature. This is a time to celebrate the holidays, to be compassionate, generous and kind. The older members of your family are probably the ones who treasure your communication the most. Will you give the gift of your time by printing the email card you create, making a few copies and putting them in envelopes to those people who love you and see your attention as the greatest gift you can give? Often holiday greetings are the only time far-flung family members

and friends communicate. Please do not let the rush of instant messaging keep you from maintaining relationships with those who have treasured you and yours through the years.

Dear Readers,

One of the column readers, Sandy, saw the letter about the woman with a husband with Alzheimer's and was compassionate enough to write to recommend a place where a loved one could safely visit during the day. She writes, "...we were fortunate enough to find South Bay Adult Care Center at Anderson Park Senior Center, 3007 Vail Ave, Redondo Beach, 310-214-6963. They were open Tuesday through Saturday at a fee of \$6 per hour and they had all kinds of activities for the people and you could drop them off for an hour or for whatever worked for you. It was so neat, caring and I remember mom enjoying the swings, craft activities, walks and the girls and boy scouts who would come and visit with them." Thank you, Sandy, for sharing; readers should evaluate this facility for themselves to decide if it meets their family needs.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours, may your lives be filled with health, happiness, love, peace, joy, abundance and true success. May you find many things to be grateful for and express appreciation clearly and often for all of the good in your lives. We are blessed to live in a country with free public education, the ability to worship as we please, express our opinions without fear of reprisal, vote if we wish for the officials we choose and take advantage of the myriad opportunities that are available to us every day. I am grateful for all of the blessings in my life and I count each one of you as one of them.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com or mail to Herald Publications.

Carol is a Life Coach available for private consultation in person or on the phone. •

Studio ANTIQUES

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Back for Yoga
...Health through Movement
Your second class is free!!

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Monday
5:30-6:45pm Beginner Hatha Andy
7:00-8:15pm Hatha Basics - All Level Leyla

Tuesday
5:30-6:45pm Yin Yoga - All Level Via
7:00-8:15pm Vinyasa Flow - Level I Leticia

Wednesday
6:00-7:15am Vinyasa Flow - All Level Jamie
5:30-6:45pm Hatha Basics - Level I-II Andy
7:00-8:15pm Hatha Basics - All Level Teri

Thursday
5:30-6:45pm Forrest - All Level Theresa
7:00-8:15pm Beginner Hatha Robyn

Friday
6:00-7:15am Vinyasa Flow - All Level Jamie
6:15-7:30pm Vinyasa Flow - All Level Alex

Saturday
9:30-10:45am Hatha Basics - All Level Andy
11:00-12:15pm Tai Chi - All Level Ara

Sunday
8:00-9:15am Hatha Basics - All Level Cathy
9:30-10:45am Yoga Tune-Up® - All Level Theresa
5:30-6:45pm Hatha Basics - All Level Andy

Class Fees

- Single Class \$15
- Class packages available at reduced prices
- No expiration on 10 and 20 class packages
- See our website for details

www.backforyoga.com
No refunds, transfers, on class packages
Teacher or class time is subject to change without notice

Back for Yoga
(310) 322-6525
255 Main Street • El Segundo, CA 90245

Hyperion or Aircraft Noise Complaint Hotline

(310) 640-CITY (2489)

IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT REGARDING Hyperion or LAX

please call the **City of El Segundo** Complaint Hotline

All complaints will be Reviewed by City staff.

metro.net

Welcome Aboard

Metro Briefs

SOUTH BAY

Thousands Celebrate Metro Rail to East LA
An estimated crowd of 75,000 was on hand to celebrate Sunday, November 15 as rail returned to East LA with the opening of the Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. The six-mile extension serves the Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights, East LA and links to the existing Gold Line to Pasadena. Find out more at metro.net.

New Freeway Service From Metro
Metro is launching new high-frequency, high-capacity bus service on freeway carpool lanes between the South Bay and San Gabriel Valley. Beginning December 13, Metro Silver Line will travel the carpool lanes on the I-10 and I-110 freeways, and serve key destinations in Downtown LA.

Go Gold Line to The Roses
Trade the traffic and parking hassles of attending the Rose Parade for the fast and convenient Metro Gold Line. The Memorial Park, Del Mar, Lake and Allen stations are all just a short walk from the parade route. The Gold Line runs overnight New Year's Eve. Find out more at metro.net.

Check Measure R Progress Online
Metro Rail to East LA is one of the first examples of your Measure R tax dollars at work. Go online anytime and track the progress of all the other Measure R funded projects. Just go to metro.net and search for "Progress Tracker."

Help The Census Help Transit
Make sure you're counted during the upcoming 2010 U.S. Census. Population figures generated by the census play a key role in the amount of federal funding Metro receives for transit purposes. The more accurate the census count, the more service Metro can provide. For more information, go to census.gov.

If you'd like to know more, please call us at 1.800.464.2111, or visit metro.net.

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