

Nick

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Nick says, "People have different ways of grieving. I threw myself into activities and popularity." Then looking for a career in show biz, both acting and producing, he came south. After 10 years in the industry, he wanted to give something back. He knew it had been a harder go for his brother. As wonderful as his grandmother was, looking back on this tumultuous time, he says, "I wished we had had a mentor to see us over the bumps in the road." In addition, with time passing he found his mother's memory was being lost. "People stopped even mentioning her name. I wanted to keep her memory alive."

Thus the seed was planted for Walk With Sally. It is a non-profit organization with offices in Torrance and volunteer mentors to help children, seven to 17, who have lost a parent to cancer. This began four years ago. There are now 50 children at a time being mentored by volunteers who have experienced cancer in their families, and who spend about eight hours a month with the kids, one-on-one, for a year. Whether going to the beach, a ballgame, the golf range, the dog park or wherever, the idea is just to be a friend who knows something about what they are going through. "The main thing is to show up," says Arquette.

Receiving advice and support from Dorothy Courtney, former Executive Director of the Richstone Family Center, and Judith Opdahl, CEO of The Wellness Community, Arquette is gratified that Children's Hospital in Los Angeles has asked that he partner with them in expanding Walk with Sally to include mentoring to siblings of children with cancer.

On Sunday, June 28, three Hummers brought all the kids to Manhattan Beach for a day of fun and photography, in the company of Mrs. California. Rolling out the red carpet for the kids, Hush Hush did their hair, Michael

Harrington Photography took their pictures, and Mama D's served them lunch. And to give back themselves, the kids made scarves from materials provided by S-KRAF to send to pen pals--orphans in Oaxaca, Mexico.

A video of the occasion will be shown at the annual fundraiser, White Light, White Night, to be held July 11 at South Bay BMW. The name comes from the white light, the color of healing, that Sally asked her sons to visualize when meditating with her during the early stages of her grueling five-year illness. Guests will all wear white.

The community has enthusiastically responded to Arquette's mission. Rock N Fish, Mucho, Hennessey's, Shade, Open Sesame, and the new Memphis will supply food and drinks at the event. Auction items will include a London and castle tour donated by Across the Pond, BMW Performance Driving School, annual membership to Equinox, and a garden cocktail party for 100 friends at Salt Creek Grille. Sponsors include Chevron, Wells Fargo, True Religion, New Balance, and Blaze Public Relations. Top 40 singer Gavin Rossdale will lead the entertainment.

In keeping with Arquette's vision to see a need and fill it, he has developed ADIA, (Swahili for "gift") a "boutique" service, he says, to keep elderly or infirm people independent and in their homes. Service can range from 24/7 care to a few hours a week of just good company or chauffeuring to doctors' appointments or errands. The aim is quality care, quality management and a humanistic approach.

For information on this service, call ADIA at 310-370-0555. And for tickets (\$100) to White Light White Night or to inquire about mentoring, call Walk with Sally at 310-378-5743, or go online www.walkwithsally.org.

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Mustangs

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seasons, five runner-up finishes and seven CIF playoff appearances during his eight years with the team. He has produced a number of players that have gone on to play collegiate baseball, too. According to Ruisinger, it wasn't anything that Coach Neily did or didn't do. "This is not taking away from anything that Mike has done with the program because he's done a great job; he really has," said Ruisinger.

It is believed that an on-campus coach was more desirable to Ruisinger than Neily was since he is in essence a walk-on coach. Neily however, was a teacher with 30 years of experience with the Torrance Unified School District when he was enticed to come to Mira Costa as a teacher and take over the baseball program. Neily was in a Mira Costa classroom teaching for two years when budget cuts cost him his full-time position and he was let go along with a number of other teachers four years ago.

Still the school kept him as the baseball coach and all seemed fine. The Mustangs were producing quality teams, players were going to the next level to play and the program was thriving. On top of that, when the Mustang baseball family was devastated by the tragic news that a former Mustang was killed and another hospitalized and in serious condition after a traffic accident earlier this year, Neily helped organize a tribute to both of them. Neily handled the Henry Pearson/Jon Wilhite incident not only with class and dignity, but with a self-respect that included a massive memorial on the baseball field. Neily held his composure and kept his team focused throughout the year under some emotional circumstances.

So what happened to an educator who was also a coach, mentor and friend to his players? According to Ruisinger, it made more sense to have an on-campus coach in the long run. "This is in the best interest of the program," she said.

There are three in-house candidates who

will most likely interview for the position, including Andy Caine and Bill Emhoff, who are currently working in the baseball program, and Cassidy Olsen, who coached at Redondo last year. It is believed that Olsen's situation at Redondo last year might have sparked the decision to have an on-campus coach.

When legendary Redondo baseball coach Tim Ammentorp stepped down after the 2008 season, Olsen applied and was initially given the job at Redondo. Brady Thurman filed a lawsuit against that city's school district, claiming the job should have been offered to a qualified in-district candidate first. The district and Thurman subsequently reached a settlement and Olsen was left out.

Ruisinger said that an on-campus coach has many benefits, although she wouldn't elaborate into too much detail. She did say that not all sporting teams at Mira Costa have on-campus coaches, but if she could she would rather have it that way. "The ideal situation is to have a teacher as a coach," she said. "They have the academic ties, they're aware of how the school operates and they are educators."

Coach Neily said he was looking forward to returning for his ninth season with the Mustangs because of his bond with the group coming back.

"We have a tremendous group of players returning and many of them I have coached since their freshman year," he said.

Neily added that he would have liked to have had one more year, especially with the group of seniors coming back--and he even indicated that to the principal. "We've been together, in some cases for three years, and I would have liked to finish what we started. I would have stepped down after that," he said.

There is a bit of irony in all of this since Neily is still coaching during the summer. He is coaching the Manhattan Beach American Legion baseball team--not Olsen. Neily has been coaching the team for a number of years since his arrival as the Mustangs' head coach.

Opinion: How to Get Schooled

By Jesse Blake McCann

There are few things scarier than the future. And I don't mean the type of apocalyptic future where cybernetic platypuses dominate us. I mean the future that involves the questions, "Where do I see myself in X number of years?" and, "What am I going to do with my life?"

If the recent graduates are anything like me when I left high school in 2001, these questions are constantly haunting them as they decide which college they want to attend and, ultimately, what career they will choose to distract themselves for the rest of their lives. These are tough decisions that may leave them feeling overwhelmed and confused.

But I'm going to let you guys in on a little secret: It's okay to not be completely sure what you want to do with your life. No matter how much job tests or career counselors want to simplify complicated life decisions, I firmly believe it's not a college requirement to initially know which career in which to take home a degree.

Stop and think about it for a moment. This is the rest of your life we're talking about. For someone to lock himself or herself into a career at the get-go of college is, well... bonkers! People should explore their options and spend time to get to know who they are, and find out what makes them happy and what they would be content doing to contribute to the world (coincidentally, you can use these lines if you're thinking about breaking up with someone). And there's no place better to do educational soul searching than at community college.

If your first reaction to my community college suggestion was, "Ew," that's not a completely unwarranted response. California community colleges are notorious for high dropout rates. A press release put out two years ago by *UC Berkeley News* reported a study that said "six in 10 students who enter the California community college system as freshmen with high school diplomas and aspirations to transfer to four-year institutions drop out or lower their academic sights after just one semester." Couple this with watching all the eggheads being shipped off to prestigious schools while your fate may be to go to a college that accepts anyone who can fill out an enrollment form, and it could be absolutely terrifying.

I went through the same feelings during my senior year at El Segundo High School. I watched fellow students take schedules full of Advance Placement classes, and I felt like a loser with my single English Honors class. I felt I had to scramble to get into a UC college to have any worth. I wonder now if I thought this way because my high school made me feel I needed to get into good schools to succeed, or because I was

being too hard on myself. Probably a little bit of both.

I ended up at El Camino College, a local community college. And as bad as I may have felt about it at the time, it was the right decision. I learned that just because a school has a high dropout rate doesn't mean the quality of education goes down. Personally, I blame the high dropout number on the passionless students who attend CCs just to keep their parents off their backs and their consciences clean.

There are many advantages to attending a community college. The CCs of CA provide the same general education requirement found at the UC or Cal States with one dramatic difference: \$\$\$\$. Santa Monica College will cost \$286 for the Fall 2009 semester; double that and it's \$572 for the entire year. To attend nearby UCLA for the 2009/2010 year as a commuter, it will cost about \$19,000. That is a ridiculous price difference for the same classes, even if the student was riding on a wave of scholarships. This means the parents are basically paying for their kids to get a head start on their underage college drinking.

Due to their inexpensive cost, community colleges give more wiggle room for students who are still trying to determine their career. Maybe Astronomy sounds appealing, but then it might turn out to be too spacey. Perhaps Philosophy sounds engaging, but then it might not provide any real answers. From my time at El Camino, I was able to ascertain that a career in newspaper journalism is a curse I wouldn't bestow on my greatest enemies.

And then once the students complete their general education and have a more narrow scope on their goals, they can move on to the universities and obtain those flashy bachelor's degrees in fields of which they're more certain.

To top it all off, it's usually easier to transfer into a big name school after community college. El Camino College has its Honors Transfer Program, where 90 percent of students get into the UC of their choice by participating in the honors-oriented program.

Universities like UCLA, Berkley and Harvard are fine schools, but expenses and stiff competition make it difficult to explore your life options. Community colleges provide a Vegas-cheap buffet of education to sample.

The final and perhaps most important piece of advice I can give students of any age who are wondering what the heck to do with their lives, is to not be troubled by future uncertainty. Instead, use it as a motivation to try different things; to find out what is certain. The worst thing you could do to sabotage yourself is to not do anything.

And if that all falls through, I hear some cybernetic platypuses are hiring in their HR department.

Water

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think it's going to be a long term behavioral change for the positive."

City Utilities Manager Raul Saenz pointed out that the price of water has already gone up more than 20 percent over last year and could double if the City cannot reduce its consumption. "What they're saying to us is that water will be available, but it will be available at a price...We're all in this together," he said.

Saenz saw residents react to the issue even before the City began its outreach efforts. "I'll tell you, we're seeing a response to our recent conservation efforts--people are cutting back," he said. "We've only had this approved last month but word about the drought has gone out, and it appears based upon our records that people were responding even before we launched this program."

The City is also looking into a tiered rate structure for water use, similar to how residents pay for electricity. The more water residents use, Saenz said, the more they might pay.

Such possibilities led businesses like the Marriott to begin irrigating its nine-hole golf course with recycled water provided by West Basin. "We're estimating they will save 17.6 million gallons of potable water a year," Saenz said, adding that the City began using recycled water in 1997, saving billions of gallons of water.

Saenz indicated that the City will try to spread the word about the new water restrictions before it begins enforcing the ordinance with fines and surcharges for violators "The intent is to not start out with a heavy handed approach," he said. "Mostly we're going to take a more information-based community outreach approach and we believe that will have a significant impact way before we start policing."

However, Saenz added, "That's not intended to give people a license to waste water ... the City Council is very serious about water conservation...we enforce the will of the City Council." •