

Dear Carol

Dear Carol,

I am a high school student and one of my teachers makes crude sexual comments to the girls in one of my classes. He talks about our bodies and says really embarrassing things. We all laugh but none of the girls like it and some of the boys are pretty mad about it too. We would like to report him and make this stop but we're afraid the principal won't believe us and if our teacher found out he would give the ones who told on him bad grades. It is so close to the end of the semester part of me wants to just wait until the school year is over and forget about it. But I might get him again next year and I don't like the idea of him treating other girls this way... Should I stay silent or tell someone?

Embarrassed Emily

Dear Emily,

This teacher must be reported to the school administration. He is betraying the trust placed in him by the school administration and the citizens who pay his salary with their taxes. If several of you go to the principal, your parents, a trusted teacher or counselor and calmly tell what is happening this can come to an end. Each one of you could write down what he says that is embarrassing and when he says it. Most teachers take their responsibility very seriously and do not want a person who disrespects students in their profession. It is possible he does not realize his behavior is unacceptable and will stop after being

counseled by the principal. Keep track of the grades you have earned so far in the class. If you feel your grades are effected by speaking out you will have proof of this mistreatment and have cause to protest your grades. If the school does not help you go to the school board with your complaint. You deserve respect wherever you go.

Dear Carol,

A Most Valuable Employee is announced by my company each month. They get a certificate and write their name on a trophy that is in the break room. This person is supposed to be nominated by fellow employees. I know that this month's MVE nominated himself. I think it started out as a joke but our supervisor chose him and then got another employee to create a real nomination. I don't think it is fair or right that he cheated this way. Should I tell management about it or just let it go? I think other people are more deserving.

Mad Marty

Dear Marty,

It seems there was no other nominee for the MVE award so the supervisor chose the only person whose name had been submitted. If others are more deserving why don't you nominate them? If you think you are worthy, nominate yourself. Don't waste your time worrying about someone else's prize; let your own light shine.

Send questions to askcarolnow@gmail.com

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

Political Penguin

By Duane Plank

Now that "we the people" have spoken and defeated Governor Arnold's tax-increase proposals, what will happen in the wonderful state of Cali?

The Guv, who curiously spent Election Day hanging out in Washington with President Obama, receiving kudos from the Prez, has been spinning a doomsday scenario, forecasting Armageddon if we the voters didn't open up our wallets (again) and throw more money at the far-reaching problems that Mr. Arnold and the elected politicians have either created, or failed to fix.

Speaking about the Governor, Mr. Obama lauded Schwarzenegger and the wonderful job our chief executive has allegedly done in working to implement tough fuel efficiency standards in our great state. What a laugh that is.

I am quite sure that Mr. Obama and his administration worked very hard in cobbling together the emissions deal, what with the nearly-bankrupt auto industry trying their best to obstruct and stall on the issue.

Course now that the feds basically own the failed car companies, the auto execs didn't have much choice other than to bend over and capitulate to the "suggestions" emanating from Washington, right?

So maybe the Prez was overcome with emotion, a little giddy, when he lauded the "great" job Schwarzenegger is doing in our state. But with all due respect, sir, I don't understand that comment. Mr. Arnold has led the Great Bankrupt State straight into the abyss. And some are even blaming him for the recent earthquakes that rocked the South Bay. Sorry, not Arnold's "fault" there.

Here is what Arnold claims will have to happen. He is going to lay off 5,000 state workers, slashing something like \$5 billion from education funds, sell off state properties like the L.A. Coliseum and San Quentin prison, release 19,000 illegal immigrant prisoners, and transfer 23,000 prison inmates to county jails.

Doesn't sound too good, does it? And you know whose fault it is? Mine. And yours, if you voted against the tax-increase money grabs. Least that's what we were told on the run-up to last week's vote. So now the teachers will be fired, the inmates released,

and all heck will break loose.

And on the subject of selling off the Coliseum and San Quentin, do you think that there were more unsavory types housed between the prison walls, or in the Coliseum when attending the Raider games when the underachieving footballers played their home games on Figueroa Street? Just asking

Speaking of "we the people," how in the world, in these crappy economic times, were we bamboozled into voting for an initiative last fall that will waste at least 10 billion smackers for a high-speed rail project linking L.A. with San Francisco? What the hell were we thinking?

Construction is supposedly going to commence in 2011, with the first bullet train heading to Frisco in about 50 years, or something like that. Now the construction part of the deal will be a good thing; we obviously need to create jobs for the ever-dwindling Cali workforce. But \$10 billion? And you know that won't be the final cost, right? Not after all the devious types lurking front-and-center, or hiding in the shadows, carve out their piece of the pie.

If we are going to waste money on a bullet train, let's just point the sucker straight at the Bellagio in Vegas. What the heck? Waste money on the train tracks, waste money on the slots, waste money in the hotel mall...

At about the same time that the Obama administration was strong-arming the defenseless auto industry, they were also taking on the bandits who run the credit card companies. In a startling bit of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a tough bill that would restrict the credit card companies from gouging and cheating their customers/suckers.

According to the bill, which passed 90-5, the credit card companies won't be able to raise rates in the first year, actually must give their customer's advance notice of rate increases, and can't rip-off their customers any longer if you and I are 30 seconds late paying our monthly bill.

There are other provisions to the bill passed by the Senate, which will take effect one year after being signed into law. Hopefully something in the bill will address the double-speak gobbledygook small print that

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How Well Do You Know Your Town's History?

By Jan Dennis

Abridged from *A Walk Beside The Sea* by Jan Dennis

Perhaps the security of the community was from experiencing growing pains, but another discovery was causing growing excitement. From the time of the mission, petroleum was known to exist in the Southern California subsoil. Tar from submarine seepage was a nuisance on the beach. In 1859, George S. Gilbert, a whale oil merchant, distilled semi-liquid asphaltum, kerosene and lubricating oil from oil seepage in Ventura County. In 1861, the first documented oil well in the Golden State was drilled near the present hamlet of Petrolia in Humboldt County.

The oil frenzy of the South Bay in the 1920s started with the discovery of the reserves at Huntington Beach in 1920 and at Signal Hill in 1921. In 1921, Redondo Oil Company was already drilling and offering shares for a single dollar. Interest in Manhattan Beach exploration was first raised publicly in 1923, and on September 5, 1824, Consolidated Mutual Oil leased the first land in town for oil drilling.

The first oil drilling took place on George Martin's property, the site of the old Duncan Ranch. Natural gas was found and Shell Oil bought the land. Manhattan Pacific Oil Company's number two well was drilled and abandoned because of water seepage, but later reopened when oil was found oozing between the cap and casing. A third well was begun in 1926 at Pine Street and Marine Avenue, with Bardeen Oil Company drilling a well in the same vicinity.

Three months later, a fourth Manhattan Beach well was established in the Martin

Ranch at Gould Avenue and Camino Real (now Sepulveda Boulevard). Martin set up a deal with the Midway Company that transferred 25 acres to wildcatter G.W. Johnson of Signal Hill. A wildcatter is a person who develops oil wells in unproved territory.

The drilling activity spurred "property owners, lease hounds, speculators, real estate operators, sightseers and representatives of various oil companies to come to the well," according to the local newspaper. With all the excitement, the City of Manhattan Beach established a new tax of \$200 per well and extended the area zoned for drilling to include Second to Seventh streets between Ingleside Avenue and the Santa Fe tracks.

There were big debates about drilling near the City's water supply, causing many residents to urge a ban on oil production within a 500-foot radius of the City's water wells. At the end of October 1926, the Bardeen well was the last well in Manhattan Beach to close. The City briefly mourned the end of its oil bonanza, but was soon over it. More in depth information can be found in *A Walk Beside the Sea*.

By 1927, the City began to closely regulate beach activities. It introduced an ordinance forbidding ocean swimming beyond 400 feet from the mean high tide line. By July 1928, City fathers decided there were to be no more bonfires on the beach. However this did not stop some people from roasting wieners in the "no man's land" between Hermosa and Manhattan. Fishing and swimming were extremely popular. By 1928, to make fishing even better, the City pier was extended at virtually no cost to the City.

To be continued... •

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