

# Polos gavels the last nail into Anaheim's coffin

## THE NEWS

It was a real longshot that Judge **Peter Polos** would essentially overrule the jury's verdict in the Angels trial yesterday, but it didn't make it any easier to sit there and listen. It was like having to go to the same friend's funeral twice.

The hearing lacked the emotion of the trial, although Anaheim attorney **Andy Guilford** tried to get Polos fired up over the latest indignity - the Sporting News' annual baseball preview simply calls the team the "Los Angeles Angels" - and co-counsel **Michael Rubin** implored the judge to "look into your own heart."



**FRANK MICKADEIT**  
REGISTER COLUMNIST

But Polos decided he didn't have the authority to rule separately from the jury, at least not at this point, and said even if he did, he couldn't see ruling any differently than the majority of jurors did.

So we - those of us who still believe we wuz robbed - repeated the same dreary shuffle out of the courtroom and down the hall, where we hashed over what might have been and pondered an appeal.

On another L.A. name rant, **Rob Rohm** of Orange wrote in to register his surprise and disgust at something that I had not realized either, and which gives me a whole new major corporate entity to attack. The name of the concert venue formerly known as Irvine Meadows was not only

changed to Verizon Wireless Amphitheater but to "Verizon Wireless Amphitheater - Los Angeles."

## FOLLOW UPS

For some reason, they're all courts-related today:

**Burt Ward**, aka Robin from TV's "Batman," had his defamation suit against **Barbara Laird** of Westminster and two out-of-county defendants tossed out by Judge **Jamoa Moberly** last week.

Laird had bought a Great Dane from Ward's dog-rescue operation out in Norco. Ward took exception to the brand of food Laird started to feed the beast and threatened to take it away. That prompted Laird and the two others to criticize Ward on a variety of Web sites, which Ward says cost him business. So he sued.

Not only did he lose, but un-

der a California law designed to protect free speech, Ward is also likely to be held liable for the defendants' attorney fees, which are going to be somewhere well north of \$50,000.

For pure spectacle, I was looking forward to a trial, but this is a suit that should never have been filed. In fact, it's the second time he's had a defamation suit tossed out. In 2003, Ward sued the Riverside Press Enterprise, which had written about environmental issues stemming from water running off his property with a high fecal content - presumably from his dogs.

**Ron Lais** may be already charmin' his bunk buddies at Ironwood State Prison in Blythe, a low-to-medium-security institution where he'll serve his 14 years for pretending he was still licensed to practice law and costing cli-

ents thousands. According its Web site, Ironwood has several vocational training programs he can enroll in, including watch and sewing machine repair.

Amazingly, even though Lais has been convicted in Orange County, a Riverside County judge has agreed to let one of his many lawsuits against former clients go forward. Lais' daughter apparently appeared on her father's behalf this week and Judge **H. Morgan Dougherty** set a trial date of Sept. 11. Lais is suing a former client for defamation, his classic S.O.P.

**Skyler DeLeon**, charged with murdering a Newport Beach couple in order to steal their yacht, and of killing another man a year earlier, showed up in court the other day with bruises under his eyes.

Originally in the O.C. Jail's

medical wing, he had been moved to the general population, where he claims he was beaten up.

If I were in that situation, I'd try to look as tough as possible to discourage trouble. But DeLeon, 26, is not only handicapped by a pretty face, he also wears a diaper - due to a motorcycle accident.

You've got to wonder how menacing a specter even a guy charged with three murders presents when it's common knowledge that under that jailhouse jumpsuit he's sporting Pampers.

Mickadeit's opinions about local people and events appear Monday through Friday. He has been a Register reporter, editor and columnist for 18 years. He graduated from San Diego State. Contact him at (714) 796-4994 or fmickadeit@ocregister.com.

## ASIAN-AMERICAN NOTEBOOK

**Korean gala:** Korean Churches for Community Development announced this week that it will hold a dinner gala May 11 to mark its fifth anniversary. The gala, which includes dinner, entertainment and awards, is scheduled from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Radisson Wilshire Plaza Hotel, 3515 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. Reservations must be received by April 30. KCCD works with Korean-American churches to make positive changes in their local communities. Information: (213) 984-4243.

- **Eric Carpenter**  
(714) 704-3769  
ecarpenter@ocregister.com

**Beauty Expo registration:** Westminster-based Advance Beauty College is accepting free online registration for the April 2 Viet Beauty Expo '06 at the campus, 10121 Westminster Ave. The expo will feature new beauty products and treatments as well as job opportunities. Information: (714) 530-2131. The Web site is [www.vietbeautyexpo.com](http://www.vietbeautyexpo.com).

- **Nguyen Huy Vu**  
(714) 445-6685  
vnguyen@ocregister.com

**Multicultural events:** The Irvine Multicultural Association sponsors free monthly socials at the Lakeview Senior Center. Socials are held from 4:30-6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. The last half hour is dedicated to presentations on different countries. China will be featured May 3. The IMA also hosts a film series each month from 6-9 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Plaza. The next film will be featured March 30. Information: Sara Mar at (949) 497-1234.

- **Ellyn Pak**  
(714) 704-3788  
epak@ocregister.com

This Friday notebook provides information to help readers participate in issues and events in local Asian-American communities. To submit an item, please e-mail or call the writers.

# TREATS TRAVEL

Placentia Girl Scout Cassidy Sullivan, 9, works to send cookies to U.S. soldiers serving abroad.

By **CINDY ARORA**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**PLACENTIA** • Every year, thousands of Girl Scouts head to their neighbors and friends to tempt them with boxes of Thin Mints or Tagalongs for the seasonal cookie whirlwind.

The power of their merit-badge-embazoned sashes has taught the pint-size business girls that few can say no to Girl Scout cookies.

This year, 9-year-old Cassidy Sullivan also discovered that people will open their hearts and wallets for a good cause.

Especially when the cause is to bring a smile and a bit of home to U.S. soldiers.

The proof sits in her family's garage, where 95 cases - 1,037 individual boxes, or about \$4,000 worth - of Samoas, Thin Mints, Do-si-dos, Cafe Cookies and Shortbread were bought to ship



**HAPPY TO HELP:** Cassidy Sullivan, 9, is sending more than 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to soldiers abroad.

overseas.

"It was very nice of people," Cassidy said. "Now I picture them eating cookies and being really happy."

The boxes are the result of a 10-day drive by Cassidy and the three women in her life - mother Kirsten Bennett, aunt Terri Glennan and grandmother Barbara Glennan - they dubbed Operation Cassidy Care.

The idea was to sell a few dozen boxes and donate them to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A few homemade fliers were pinned in town with contact in-

formation,

They anticipated selling about 100 boxes - tops - for the cause.

"We started getting checks in the mail, phone calls and e-mails. As soon as people found out that this was for the troops, they just started opening up their wallets," said Bennett, 32.

Charity work is part of being a Girl Scout, said Gail Ellis-Olds, spokeswoman for the Girl Scout Council of Orange County. Scouts throughout the county donate food, clothing and cookies to Camp Pendleton.

They also take part in the Gift of Caring project, in which Scouts donate cookie money to a charitable group.

"Who doesn't think of cookies as something comforting?" Ellis-Olds said. "Girl Scout cookies just make you feel good, and it makes them feel connected to home."

Cassidy and her family will spend the next few weeks preparing care packages to ship abroad.

Each box will come with a sticker that reads Operation Cassidy Care and a personalized note from kids in Cassidy's fourth-grade class and from veterans in Orange County.

One note reads: "Dear Soldiers, I hope you guys are doing fine and winning the war. These cookies will heal your wounds and give you luck. Sincerely, Josh."

"Some of the notes just break your heart," said Terri Glennan, 39.

The cookies will be shipped the weekend of March 17, and Cassidy and her family are already thinking about how to plan for next year's cookie season.

"The least we can do is send them cookies," Bennett said.

"They are over there fighting, so we can be here."

## FAMILY

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The professor declined to comment when reached at UCI on Thursday.

In a declaration filed in the case, he said he made bad investments and "was taken advantage of" in the 1990s. He also said that the family partnership was worth about \$8 million and that his son unsuccessfully tried to have a conservator appointed to manage it in October.

Louis Gottschalk was married to Helen Gottschalk, who died in 1993, according to the suit. After she died, the Gottschalk Family Trust was split among family members into a partnership, the suit says.

A hearing asking for a preliminary injunction to immediately remove Louis Gottschalk from accessing money in the partnership is set for March 14.

Gottschalk joined UCI in 1967 as founding chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior. His accomplishments include a

study in 1988 that determined that then-President Reagan was not as mentally capable as earlier in his presidency. Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1994.

The lawsuit says Louis Gottschalk met with FBI agents in 1999 and told them he had been duped. Guy Gottschalk alleges that his father kept transferring money after the meeting.

In addition, the suit alleges the psychiatrist used the family fund as "his own personal piggy bank," including paying for his meals

at UCI's University Club.

The scam has defrauded Americans of hundreds of millions of dollars, according to the U.S. Secret Service. Hundreds of people in Orange County have been duped, many of them elderly, Secret Service Agent James Kollar said.

Some arrests in Nigeria have been made, but the scam has lasted for years.

Kollar said that individuals typically lose from \$500 to \$1,000 and that he's never heard of someone being scammed of more than \$1 million.

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

### COURTS

#### Capistrano death sparks civil claim

The family of a Dana Hills High School student killed last year in a scooter accident has filed a legal claim against San Juan Capistrano.

Lauren Erica Herzog, 18, was riding a push scooter that struck a wooden sign pole on a sidewalk near Del Obispo Street and Blue Fin Drive, according to the claim.

A claim is the first step before filing a lawsuit. A city spokesman declined to comment.

"The wooden pole ... was erected in the middle of the sidewalk, and as such constitutes a hazard and is a dangerous condition for persons who use the sidewalk," wrote Roger Tomalas, the Herzog family's attorney.

- **Michael Coronado**  
(949) 465-5424

### HEALTH

#### O.C. schools on chicken pox alert

Orange County health officials issued a warning Thursday about a chicken pox outbreak at schools but declined to name the campuses.

Howard Sutter, spokesman for the Health Care Agency, said parents are being reminded to vaccinate their children against chicken pox. He said the cases are more common in the winter.

The number of sick children compared with past years is unknown because chicken pox cases are not tracked, Sutter said.

Vaccinations undoubtedly have reduced the number, he said.

For more information on where to get vaccinations, call (800) 564-8448.

- **Courtney Perkes**  
(714) 796-3686

### HEALTH

#### UCLA transplants its 4,000th liver

A San Clemente woman who received the 4,000th liver transplant performed at UCLA Medical Center is expected to be released today, a hospital spokesman said.

Maria de Lourdes Molina, 39, received the organ Feb. 13.

Dr. Ronald Busuttill performed the surgery and has led the hospital's liver program since it was founded in 1984. UCLA has one of the top-three liver programs in the country by volume.

Orange County's only liver-transplant program, at UCI Medical Center, closed in November after a federal investigation revealed a low number of transplants.

UCI doctors performed 164 transplants since 1993.

- **Blythe Bernhard**  
(714) 796-6880

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Edison to donate Great Park trees

Southern California Edison is expected to announce today that it is donating 50,000 trees to the Great Park.

The trees will come from an Edison nursery in Fresno County and will be planted in the Irvine park's 1,347 acres of public space. Edison donates thousands of trees each year to cities and other organizations.

An initial planting of 5,000 seedlings will begin soon, the company said.

Preliminary plans call for about 75,000 trees to be planted at Great Park.

An inventory at the former Marine base counted 7,945 trees in late 2004. It's unclear how many of those trees will be saved.

- **Jeff Rowe**  
(949) 553-2914

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