

Malibu Life

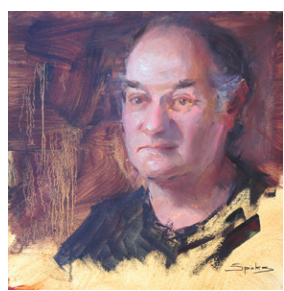
INSIDE



Malibu celebs take home Golden Globes. Malibu Seen, B2



City to hold youth lacrosse clinic. Sports, B12



Meet this month's Face of Malibu. People, B3

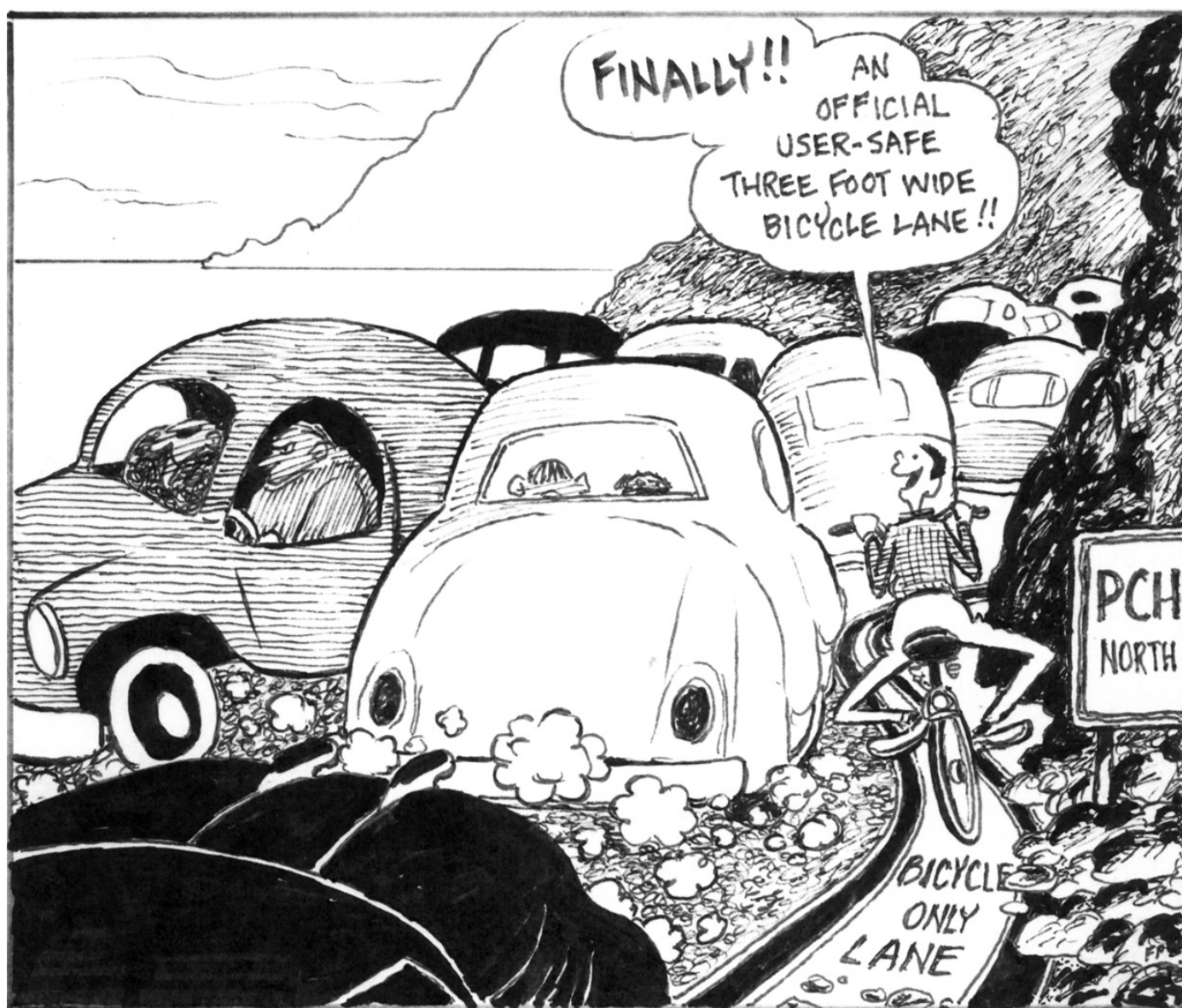


Malibu High hoops fall in dramatic opener. Sports, B12



Students win essay contest. People, B2

The Malibu Times | January 16, 2014



The man behind the cartoons

While The Malibu Times' weekly political cartoon has many fans, few know the local cartoonist who creates them.

By Jimmy Tallal
Special to The Malibu Times

Just about anyone who reads *The Malibu Times* and keeps up with local issues has gotten a chuckle out of the political cartoon that appears each week in the paper's Opinion page. The cartoonist has an uncanny knack for getting to the heart of the often complex, divisive issues that face the city. His cartoons use humor, boil issues down to their simplest components and at the same time generally leave little doubt about the creator's own opinion.

Meet 83-year old Fred Purucker—the man behind those cartoons for the past 14 years. In 2013 alone, he lampooned, among other things, the city's decision to exchange Charmlee Wilderness Park for Bluffs Park, the chain store ordinance, the closing of Malibu's Superior Courthouse, the new high school football field lights and a proposed tiger sanctuary.

In a phone interview, Purucker joked, "I tend to stay behind the scenes. If nobody knows what I look like, I'm safe!"

A Point Dume resident for decades, Purucker said he's always expressed himself on the page. "I've always been drawn—
See Purucker, page B6

SECTION

B

INSIDE

People B2-3
Sports B12
Pet Pourri B7
Classified B9

Thiebaud exhibit opens at Pepperdine

Legendary California artist's works are more than just Pop Art.

By Melonic Magruder
Special to The Malibu Times

Wayne Thiebaud, master printmaker, lithographer, painter, graphic designer and doodler, so disliked being saddled with a label like Pop Art, he switched focus to works that elegantly and expansively highlighted his extraordinary gifts as a "realist working in the grand tradition of representational art," and turned to printmaking.

"Wayne Thiebaud:
See Thiebaud, page B4



"Glassed Candy," by Wayne Thiebaud, is one of many pieces on display at Pepperdine's new Thiebaud exhibit.

Wayne Thiebaud/VAGA, New York, NY

Malibu dentist turns inventor

After 20 years of trying, Tom Hirsch and brother Jim turn idea into product.

By Ed Kamen
Special to The Malibu Times

They say necessity is the mother of all invention. For Malibu's Tom Hirsch, who has practiced in the same dentistry office on Civic Center Way for 41 years, truer words were never spoken.

Thirty years ago, Hirsch alighted on a solution to a problem that had pestered him for years: a lack of light in his patients' mouths when he performed procedures on them.

Over the next two decades, Hirsch and his brother Jim, an industrial engineer, tinkered with and eventually patented a remarkable advancement in dental care called the Isolite System, and together they now head a company that employs 52 workers.



Dr. Tom Hirsch and his brother spent 20 years refining his invention.

But creating this product was about as easy as a root canal and more discouraging than a mouthful of cavities. The self-made inventors flirted with bankruptcy, mortgaging their homes and that of their parents, all in the hopes that a dream would pay off big.

"It was based on need," Hirsch, 67, explained of his technology. "There was never enough light in the mouth. There were shadows."

Back in the early 1980s, Hirsch said, dentists conducting procedures on their patients used headlights on the ends of drills to see into the patients' mouths. The headlights created shadows, though, making the procedures more difficult. Worse, the drills were attached to fiber optic cables, or bundles, that plugged into electrical outlets about six feet away from the patient. The bundles ran from \$300 to \$500,
See Hirsch, page B4

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Coming Soon: MTM Home & Garden Issue

Share your home and gardens with us as we profile the unique structures and gorgeous greenery of Malibu. Send us an email to be featured in our upcoming issue in May.
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