



From the Publisher
Arnold G. York

Handicapping an election

Every couple of years we have an election for seats on the Malibu City Council, some years we elect two, and on alternate years, three. Sitting here on Tuesday afternoon before knowing the results of this year's election, I got to reminiscing about all of the dozen or so elections I've seen over the last 24 years. In the intervening years since we became a city, many have tried for city council, a few have succeeded and most have failed. It's a healthy thing in a democracy when people run for political office because we always need new talent, energy and ideas. Sadly, many of the people who run have little talent, lots of energy and few ideas, or at least few practical ideas. I will say that I admire people who run because they are willing to put themselves on the line and take whatever comes. When you run, you get a certain amount of strokes but you also get a coterie of people who are only too willing to beat up on you, some for sound policy reasons, and some who do it because they are personally unhappy and love the opportunity to take it out on someone else.

important), online ads, social media printing, signs and all the other paraphernalia of contemporary politics.

Rule #4: You're going to need a consultant, someone to run your campaign. It can be a volunteer consultant, but it has to be someone with experience who understands elections.

Rule #5: You need to get the results of all the past elections and very analytically try and figure where the votes are and how you can form alliances to get those 2,000 votes.

Rule #6: You absolutely need a group of highly enthusiastic supporters who will walk precincts, hold up signs, run coffee parties in their homes, and talk to and recruit all of their friends to vote for you.

Rule #7: Generally speaking, you do better with a slate. However, you want a balance in terms of voter appeal, perhaps geography, perhaps gender, people who have different areas of support that can be joined together.

Rule #8: You genuinely have to stand for something. Understand that in Malibu everyone is for very slow growth, everyone is for a cleaner environment, everyone is for healthier schools, everyone is for keeping us from becoming a tourist town, so just being for the "good guy" is not enough.

Rule #9: You don't start with running for council. You start by volunteering, working on a charity, getting actively involved in your homeowners association, school involvement or many of a dozen ways to get engaged. Then you get appointed to a city commission or an advisory group. It's all time-consuming, often tedious, and you will often be dealing with people you don't agree with. But that's politics in a democracy. If you don't have the personality for handling discord, you certainly don't want to be in politics.

Rule #10: Be persistent, don't give up and, if you fail the first time, well, then just go back, figure out what you did wrong and start again.

Letters to the Editor

The Malibu Times requests that letters to the editor be sent by U.S. mail or hand-delivered to The Malibu Times, 3864 Las Flores Canyon Rd., Malibu, CA 90265; e-mailed to malibunews@malibutimes.com or by fax to 310.456.8986. Name, address and phone number must be included with all letters for verification purposes.

Typed letters must use sentence case (please avoid submitting correspondence typed entirely in capital letters or in cursive). Letters should be brief, 350 words maximum, and may be edited for clarity or length. Deadlines are Tuesdays at noon.

Clarifying information

I am grateful and humbled that The Malibu Times published a feature article about the issuance of my 68th patent (April 3, 2014 edition, page B1). However, I wish to clarify a few points that may lead to misinterpretations regarding my previous teaching position at Pepperdine, as well as improper attribution of us as inventors of the photonic crystal fiber (PCF).

First, as I indicated in the press release that I wrote and submitted to the paper, I was an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University in the 1980s, and not a professor. The difference between these two faculty positions is significant and any misinterpretation can lead one to conclusions regarding one's ethics. Second, the novel photonic crystal fiber (PCF) was invented and first demonstrated by various research groups in the 1990s, and, most definitely, not us. Their original work involved PCFs using silica (glass) at visible wavelengths.

The basic invention of the novel PCF structure is not our idea and any misattribution to us would be construed as unethical. Specifically, in our invention, we took the basic PCF structure and engineered it to work in the infrared using silica (glass). It is well known that glass is lossy at these long wavelengths. Hence, using glass in the infrared is counterintuitive, since materials with loss are typically excluded from consideration. Our invention teaches that, with clever design rules, PCFs using glass materials can, indeed, function in the infrared, which can lead to next-generation applications in such areas as medical and dental laser tools, communication and diagnostic devices.

David M. Pepper, Ph.D

Standing strong

A lot of people ask me why I've thrown my hat into the ring in the City Council race, and it's important to me that people understand why. For me, it comes to down to this deep appreciation for the spectacular beauty of this place, and the rare community feel of it. It's special and I am committed to working hard and smart to retain Malibu's unique charm. There is only one Malibu, and once it's gone, it's gone. I don't want to lose that—it is of tremendous value—and it is the reason Malibu is a retreat to so many.

It's important to me that we, as a City, provide youth facilities for recreation, that we manage the safety of PCH and our schools in a pragmatic way, and manage growth in the Civic Center in both a creative and functional manner, that doesn't overburden our deteriorating infrastructure. I believe it's critical we review the history and performance of Malibu's legal resources and use the exhaustive planning and zoning laws to ensure that present and future development remain in compliance with Malibu's mission state-

ment and general plan.

It's my personal mission to return the City of Malibu to its founding vision and mission statement by first returning the City Council to a body of integrity and decorum centered on a process of openness and civic involvement that encourages all of the public to engage and make their divergent views available—only then can we achieve real solutions that mirror the uniqueness and cachet that make up Malibu.

Andy Lyon and I stand for everybody who ever got pushed aside or dismissed, who felt unheard and gave up because it was too hard. It's a "Last of the Mohicans" vibe, and we're not going anywhere. I hope you'll stand with us.

Hamish Patterson

Saying thank you

Dear Laura Rosenthal, Lou La Monte, June Louks, Andy Lyon and Hamish Patterson:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for stepping up to expend your time and talents for the betterment of Malibu.

This election has not been easy, to say the least. The two candidate forums I attended were like being at the Coliseum. But instead of battling for yourselves, you're fighting tooth and nail for Malibu, which I deeply appreciate.

I may not love all the tactics, but I love, love, love all the passion. Malibu deserves it.

Personally, I fervently hope the next assemblage of Malibu City Council members supports both Advocates for Malibu Public Schools and the Reiner "Your Malibu, Your Decision" act.

Martha Quinn

Most definitely hysterical

Last October, I attended a meeting led by district superintendent Sandra Lyon, who promised she would do all she could to address and fix the suspected toxin problem at Malibu High School. It's April and the problem is not fixed, despite the fact that results from initial testing meant the EPA, a federal government agency, had to be brought in.

I am not a researcher. I'm a mom with a fierce desire to keep my family safe and here is what I know: I know that toxins are not just up at the campus; they are everywhere. I know that they are in the air we breathe, the food we ingest and the water we drink. The chemicals in our deodorant, make up, perfumes and cleaners—the list is endless—are also increasing our toxin load.

A toxin does not stand alone. It combines with other toxins we've encountered over our lifetime, resulting in cumulative damage. You know what else I know? I know that when I was eight months pregnant, I began having gran mal seizures "out of nowhere." "Out of nowhere" became a brain tumor

and when that tumor was removed and biopsied, it was a grade four glioblastoma. There is no grade five.

Given that there is no genetic link for brain tumors, I began to live a cleaner, less toxin-filled life. 11 years later, I'm alive and have a beautiful kid. I think of all the things I can't control that heighten her toxin load. But the things I can control—like the possible contamination at the high school where she spends a minimum of 35 hours a week, August through June—I want answers about. So when someone says to me that I'm "governed by the politics of hysteria," I nod my head, agreeing that when it comes to my kid, I am most definitely hysterical.

This is a community issue. If you live up by the high school, if you play on their fields, or even if you just walk your dog around its track, we need you to stand up for what is right.

Sky Kunerth

Too close?

Mayor Skylar Peak recently endorsed Hamish Patterson for City Council. Peak and Patterson are

roommates. In his YouTube videos, Patterson refers to the mayor as his "bro," and tells us that his "bro" subsidizes his expenses. Am I the only one who has a problem with the fact that our mayor just endorsed his "bro" roommate for City Council, and pays some of his living expenses?

Larry Abbott

Water project truths

In response to a story about our proposed water project, here are the facts:

1. It's not true that the City's attempting to impose a special assessment district tax. We're merely asking the City to let us vote; whether the district passes is entirely up to us.

2. It's not true that people will lose their homes or life savings. Those choosing to sell their property will pocket the proceeds.

3. It's absurd to claim that this will cost our neighborhood \$78 million. The high-side estimates average less than \$155,000 per parcel for water, gas, telecom and road resurfacing. Experts expect the

actual cost to come in 10-20% less.

4. THHOA Inc. has never fraudulently represented itself as anything other than what it is: a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation. It's not true that we've appeared before the Coastal Commission, it's not true that the corporation is owned by two individuals, and it's not true that we're a for-profit corporation. Contrary to claim, every member of the corporation has been a neighborhood property owner, membership has always been open to anyone wanting to volunteer on this project.

5. Vitoil Inc. is generously donating land for our tank site and paying for the fire department access road. Technically, it's part of our project, but Vitoil is covering the cost.

We're volunteers working to bring water and other much-needed benefits to our neighborhood, spending more than a decade working through the bureaucratic morass, exploring all the alternatives to get this project done as quickly, efficiently, reliably and as affordably as possible.

See Letters, page A8

In case you missed it

The top stories on MalibuTimes.com this week



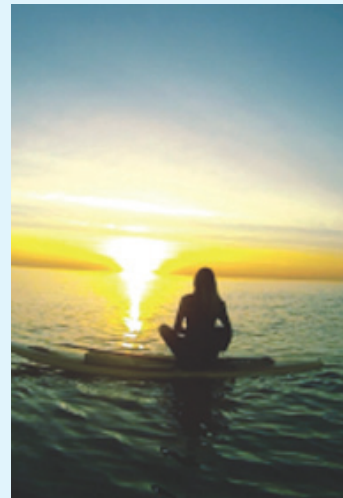
2,000 lbs. pot seized, three arrested in Malibu Panga boat landing



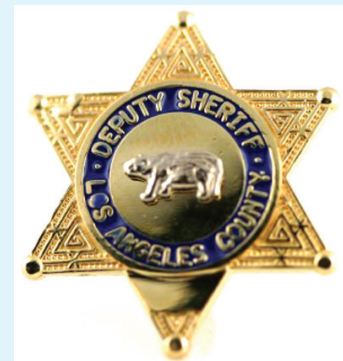
Video shows Santa Monica High teacher fighting with student



Traffic break scheduled early Sunday near Paradise Cove



Concerts and clear skies are coming for this weekend in Malibu



Police reports: Malibu mischief

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PUBLISHERS Arnold and Karen York
EDITOR IN CHIEF Arnold G. York
MARKETING DIRECTOR Karen Portugal York
MANAGING EDITOR Knowles Adkisson
ASSISTANT EDITOR Sarah Shmerling
STAFF WRITERS Melissa Caskey, Kim Devore, Juliet Schoen
PHOTOGRAPHERS Julie Ellerton, Dave Lichten
CONTRIBUTORS Dick Dornan, Pam Linn, Patrick Timothy Mullikin, Pam Price, Homaira Shifa, Jimmy Tallal

ART DIRECTOR Nira Lichten
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ADVERTISING Mary Abbott, Barbara Calandra, Kathy May, Marilyn Arbetman
CLASSIFIEDS Teresa Gelbman
RECEPTIONIST Lynn Eaton
ADMINISTRATION Jennifer Kantor, Kathy O'Rourke, Janice Vicioso

3864 Las Flores Canyon Rd. • Malibu, CA 90265
Editorial: 310.456-5507 | Advertising: 310.456.8016 | FAX: 310.456.8986
e-mail: malibunews@malibutimes.com • Web site: www.malibutimes.com

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