



THE NEWSLETTER

GRAND JURORS ASSOCIATION OF ORANGE COUNTY

Volume 16, No. 3

10064 Sunn Circle, Fountain Valley CA 92708

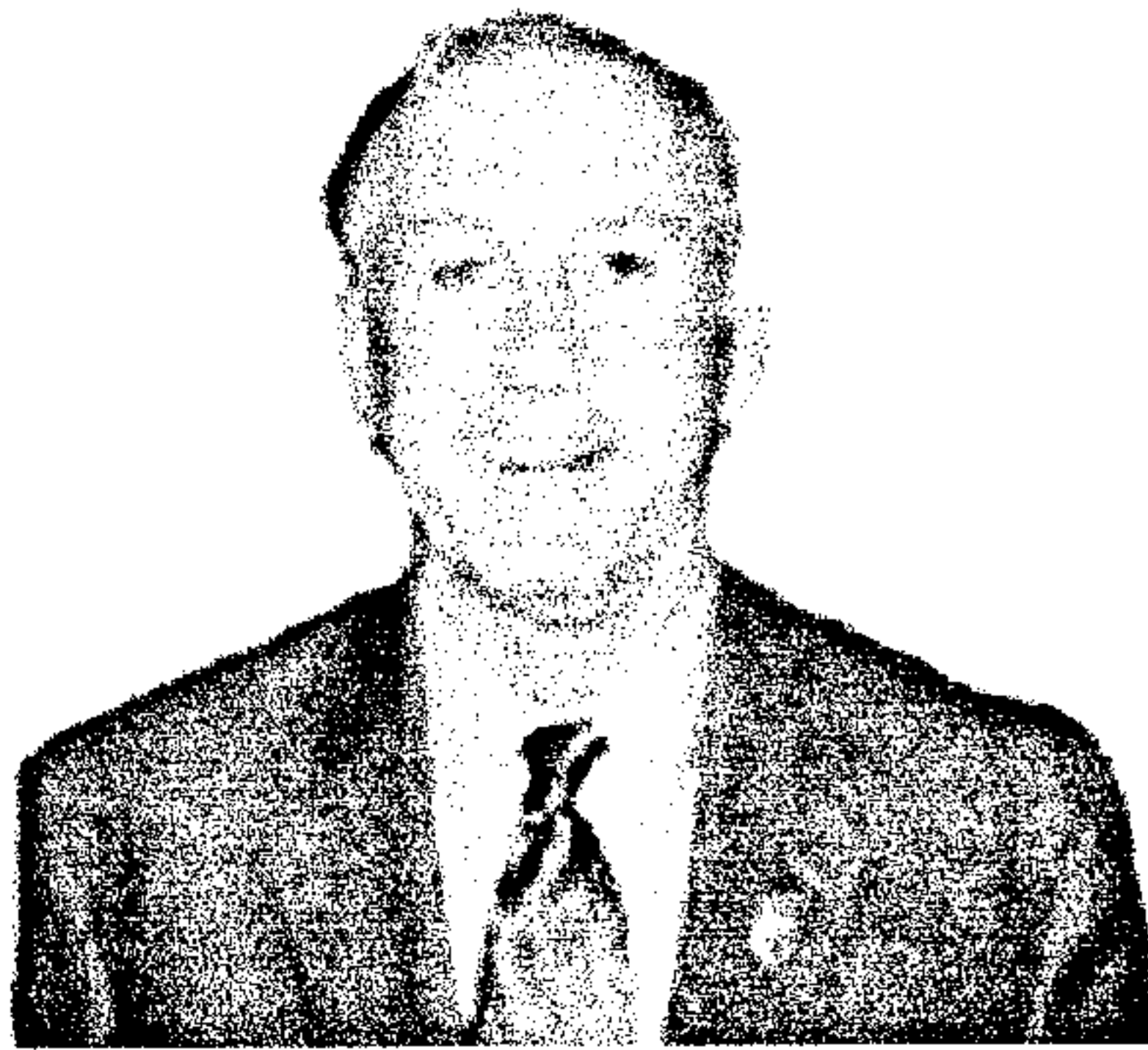
August, 2002

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

President - Royal Lord - (714) 838-6093
1st VP (Program) - Sheldon Singer - (714) 530-9255
2nd VP (Membership) - Jim Nolan - (714) 964-7024
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Treasurer - Joe Quiros - (949) 651-0113
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Sgt-at-arms - Bill Guthrie - (949) 586-7785
Counselor - John Baird - (714) 527-7664
Newsletter - Cheryl Brothers - (714) 839-4509
Director - Mike Harris - (714) 538-4832
Director - Bob Fauteux - (714) 998-1868
Director - Bob Geiss - (949) 472-9763

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Thursday, September 5
at Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim**

**Gaddi Vasquez
Peace Corps Director**



SPEAKER GADDI H. VASQUEZ

Gaddi Vasquez was nominated by President George Bush and sworn in as the Director of the Peace Corps on February 15, 2002. He is the Agency's first Hispanic-American Director. Director Vasquez came to the Peace Corps from the Southern California Edison Company where he was Division Vice President of Public Affairs. Previously, he has served in the administrations of former California Governors George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Gray Davis. He was twice appointed by former President George H. W. Bush to federal commissions.

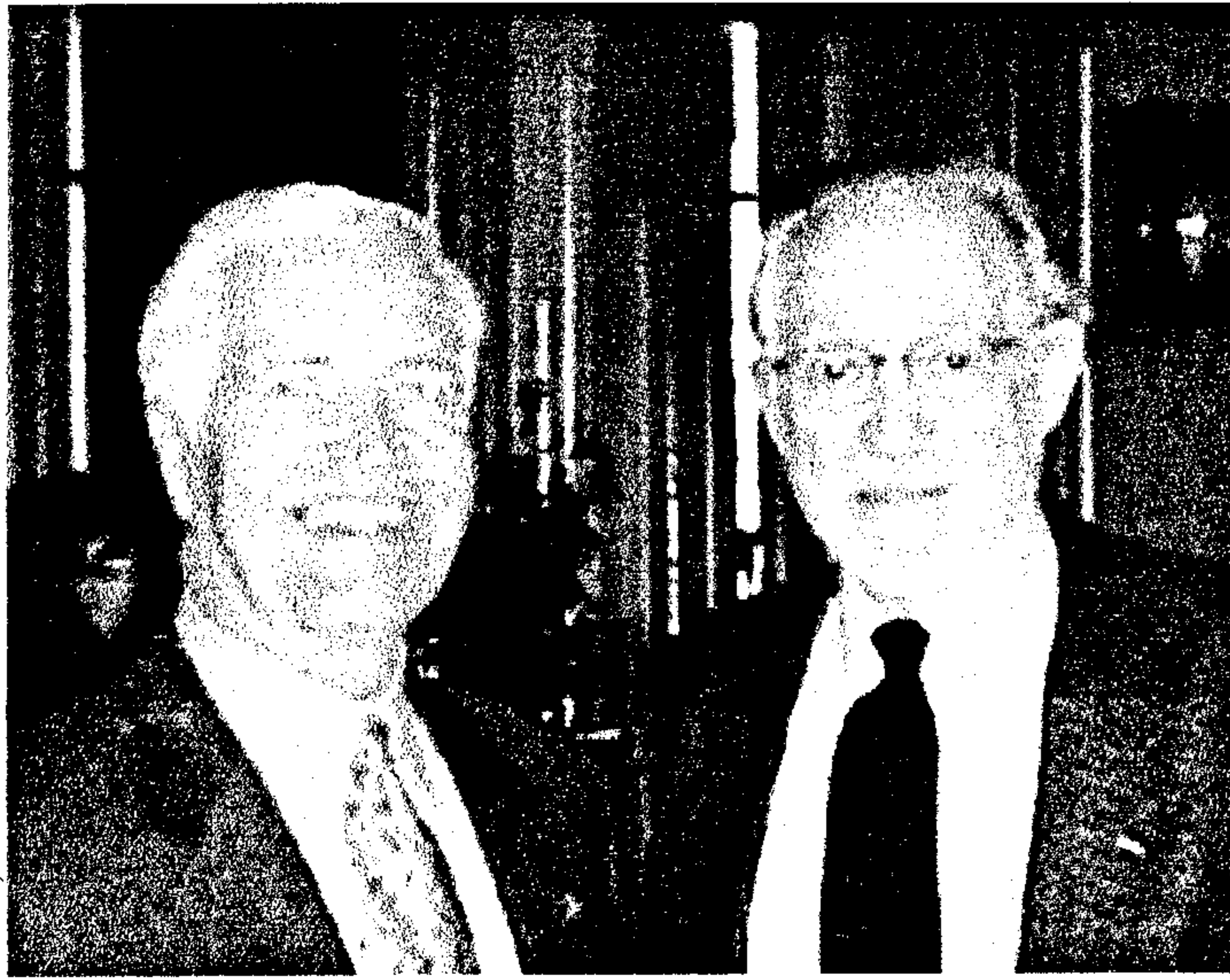
Mr. Vasquez' 22-year public service career includes service at the city, county, state and federal levels of government. He began his service as a police officer in the City of Orange, California. Through the years, he has remained active as a reserve police officer.

As Director of the Peace Corps, Gaddi oversees 7,000 volunteers in 70 countries around the world.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been said, "You can't legislate morality." So where does this lead us in corporate America? It seems when we look back at "the greatest generation" honesty, integrity, and a man's word were the hallmarks of the day. In the past sixty or so years how did we slip so far from those values to those of greed and narcissism? Much of it comes down to one word: responsibility. Grand Jurors, past and present, are some of the most responsible people in our society. They are concerned not only with how our government serves us, but also with how the government can help correct the ills of society. That brings us back full circle to responsibility. We as indi-

continued on p.2



Bill Habermehl and Sheldon Singer at the June meeting.

JUNE SPEAKER - WILLIAM HABERMEHL - O.C. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Bill Habermehl joined the Orange County Department of Education 24 years ago. Two years ago he was elected Superintendent. He spoke to the June luncheon attendees using the subject of "The Orange County Story."

Orange County public schools - K -12 - comprise 571 schools in 27 districts with more than a half million students enrolled. It's a mixed student population: Approximately 60,000 Asian, 210,000 Hispanic, 202,000 White, and 22,000 "other" ethnicities. Of these, 150,633 are non-english speakers. California spends \$6,300 per student per year and ranks about 30th among U.S. states. (U. S. average = \$7,580. New Jersey spends more than \$10,000.) Habermehl says Orange County's schools are underfunded and need \$90,000,000 more annually to meet requirements for new teachers, new classrooms, and new equipment such as computers.

Despite these challenges, O.C. schools have produced some very impressive results:

- Better than 93% of the county's 12th graders graduated in 2001 (statewide average: 88%);
- SAT scores are among the best in the nation, and getting better;
- Even schools in disadvantaged districts are getting very good results and have been making very respectable improvements in achievement tests in recent years.

Habermehl ended his O.C. Story on an upbeat note - Even though they are somewhat underfunded, Orange County's schools rank among the best in the country and make our county a great place to live, work and be educated.

*President's Message
continued from p.1*

viduals must take responsibility for our own acts and the moral consequences that follow. If we took responsibility for our own choices and decisions, many of the laws and regulations that we now have would not be necessary. What will it take to return us to a previous set of values? When we value morals higher than the bottom line, maybe we will see some changes. In the meantime, Grand Jurors, keep their feet to the fire by taking the higher moral ground in our small corner of the world. We may begin to effect change in a positive way.

- Royal Lord, president

CALIFORNIA GRAND JURORS' ASSOCIATION

**21st Annual Conference
November 15 & 16 2002
Marin County, California**

You're invited ... All CGJA Members and California Grand Jurors - past and present - and encouraged to attend this year's Annual Conference to hear well informed public and private leaders speak on important current issues of interest.

This year our Orange County Association will subvent expenses for Secretary Rose Mareno, Legislative Chair Bob Geiss, 1st VP (Program) Sheldon Singer, and President Royal Lord. They will act as our Orange County Ambassadors. You are urged to attend and hear first hand information. Please contact Rose Moreno for registration details.

NOTES & MISCELLANY

TREASURERS REPORT

As of July 26, 2002
Checking account balance:
\$8,708.39
Custom Time Deposit:
\$3,325.22
Total Reserves:
\$12,033.61
Joe Quiros, Treasurer

GJAOC WEBSITE

The California Grand Jury Association has a website worthy of knowing about. It is www.cgja.org. It features a section on legislative doings along with regular Grand Jury information. This info was contributed by Bob Geiss.

LUNCH GUESTS

GJAOC will host eight Orange County high school students to attend our September lunch program in hopes they will be inspired by our program on two fronts - the Peace Corps and the Grand Jury.

IN MEMORIAM

Leo Greene
1980-81 panel
June, 2002

THE 2002/2003 O.C. GRAND JURY

Selected in mid May, the incoming Orange County Grand Jury was sworn in in Department C1 of the Superior Court on July 1. The new jury includes three African Americans, two Asians, two Hispanics, and twelve Caucasians. There are 11 men and 8 women. Average age is 62, with a range of 45-72.

In order to attain this panel, 2,503 applications were mailed to prospective applicants, and additional publicity was generated through radio and television as well as speakers at diverse group meetings. 241 applications were returned. Judge David McEachern, as chair of the Grand Jury Recruitment/Selection Committee, supervised the outreach for a diversified pool of candidates.

The 2002/03 Grand Jury is:

Anne Brown - Fullerton
Lawrence Callahan - Garden Grove
Tao-Han Chang - Yorba Linda
Patricia Coakley - Villa Park
Christina Deaton - Balboa Island
Jeffery Hamilton - Santa Ana
Margaret James-Edwards - Garden Grove
Jerry Krans - San Clemente
Deepak Mehta - Orange
William Nelson - Villa Park
Carlos Olvera - Dana Point (foreman)
Marcia Rubin - Irvine
Viola Sandler - Anaheim
Gerald Schamahorn - Huntington Beach
Louis Schulte - Santa Ana
Elizabeth Spencer - Garden Grove
Allan St. Jacques - Santa Ana
Mary White - Newport Beach

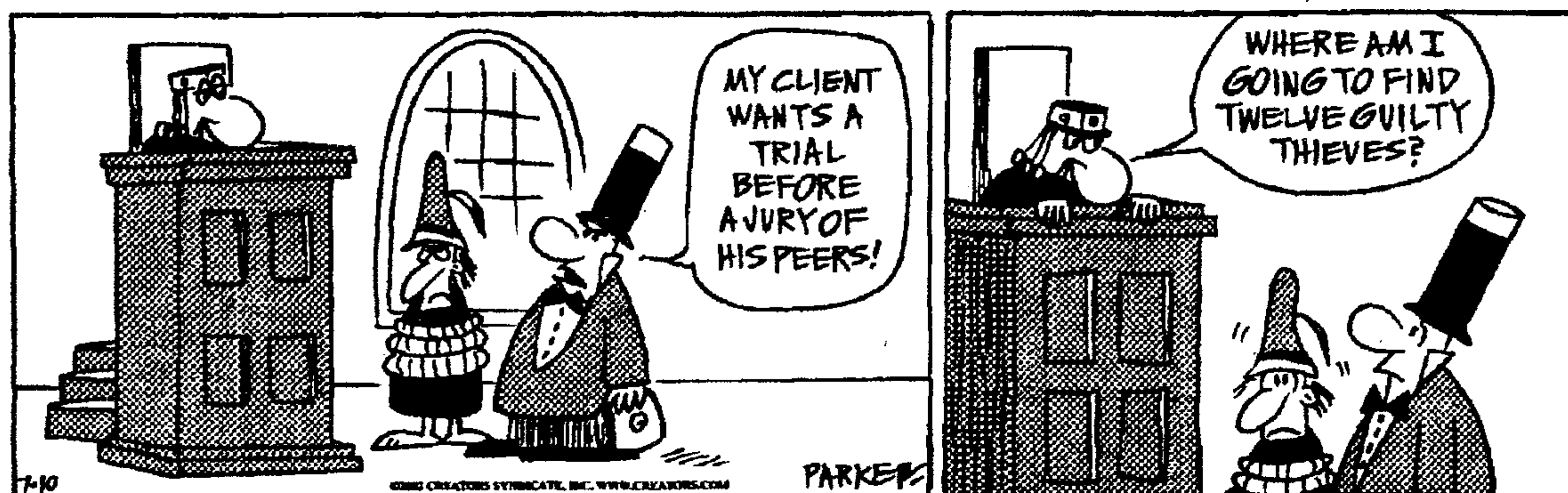
GJAOC extends its congratulations and best wishes to the 2002/03 panel.

FINAL REPORTS OF THE OUTGOING GRAND JURY

The 2001/02 Orange County Grand Jury published eleven final reports:

- *"Rats!"* - An assessment of roof rat infestations in Orange County, and recommendations to better control the problem.
- *"The 20 Meter Study"* - O.C. Sanitation District is criticized for withholding results of its own studies regarding the quality of ocean water near sewage outfalls.
- *"Abandoned Calls"* - The Child Abuse Registry has an incoming call system which is congested at times and uses outdated or inadequate equipment.
- *"Tax Sheltered Annuities"* - A look at the efficiency of the County's system of forwarding deposits to school employees savings plans.
- *"Safe Arms for Newborns"* - Surveys the county's handling of the 2001 law giving shelter to abandoned babies 72 hours old or younger with no questions asked.
- *"Recruitment and Productivity"* - An analysis of the demographics of O.C.'s Grand Jury applicants and selection, suggested skills required for membership. (Despite great efforts to match the age, sex and ethnicity to reflect the county population, grand juries tend to be made of white geezers.)
- *"Inmate Welfare Fund"* - Santa Ana jail operates a fund for programs to benefit inmates. Some procedural improvements are recommended.
- *"Joplin Youth Center - A Day in the Life"* - The Jury monitored the facility. A favorable report, which makes a few suggestions including staffing the nurse's office.
- *"Election Time & Telephone System"* - Peak demand at election time is not satisfied by the current system capacity.
- *"Planning the County's Business"* - A critique of the county's standard of planning. Points out areas of possible improvement.
- *"Office of the District Attorney - an In-Depth Investigation"* - The landmark study from this jury which will be its *magnum opus*: Prompted by complaints passed on by the 2000-01 Grand Jury, work began in November of last year. The California Attorney General's Office was enlisted for support pursuant to Penal Code section 934. The panel heard testimony from 68 witnesses, considered 400 exhibits, and created 5,500 transcript pages. The report consists of 100 pages, lists 92 findings and 64 recommendations. It is critical of District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, citing- among other things, abuse of power, improper personnel practices, misuse of county resources, undue personal involvement in case dispositions, and interference in office matters by his wife, a junior-level staff attorney.

Full text of these reports is available in pdf form at <http://www.occourts.org/grandjury>.



HICAP MEDICARE COUNSELING

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) is a volunteer-supported program providing free help with your questions on medicare and health insurance. HICAP does not sell, endorse or recommend any specific insurance. The Program provides unbiased information to help you make the best choice for your individual health care needs. HICAP is administered by the California Department of Aging. HICAP serves persons on or about to receive medicare, persons planning for retirement, or the purchase of health insurance. They also serve as representatives of medicare beneficiaries and persons interested in coverage for future health related costs.

HICAP can help you understand your rights as a healthcare consumer, how to appeal denials of coverage and counsel you on legal help. They can also provide information on "Medigap", HMO's, Medicare plus plans and long term care insurance.

HICAP volunteers are registered by the California Department of Aging. They act in good faith to provide this information to you, the client. This information should not be construed to be legal advice and the counsellors are generally not liable for acts and omissions in providing this service. For more information or assis-

tance, contact the Health Insurance Counselling and Advocacy Program provided by the Council on Aging-Orange County. Their address is 1971 E. Fourth Street, Suite 200, Santa Ana, CA. 92705. You can call them for an appointment or information at 714-560-0424.

GJAOC ELECTIONS

You have until August 15th to contact our Nominating Committee Chair Jim Nolan, and place a name or names in nomination for the six Board of

Directors who will be elected to serve for the next two years starting in January 2003. Four of the six sitting directors have agreed to run for re-election. Two of the Board members have served for six years and their chairs must be filled by new members.

As we said in the last Newsletter, you must have the nominee's approval in writing before the nomination can be accepted. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the September General meeting. Again, if the nominee is not present, the nominator must have his/her approval in writing in order to have the nomination accepted.

Jim Nolan's address is:
10348 Bunting Circle
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Telephone: 714-964-7024

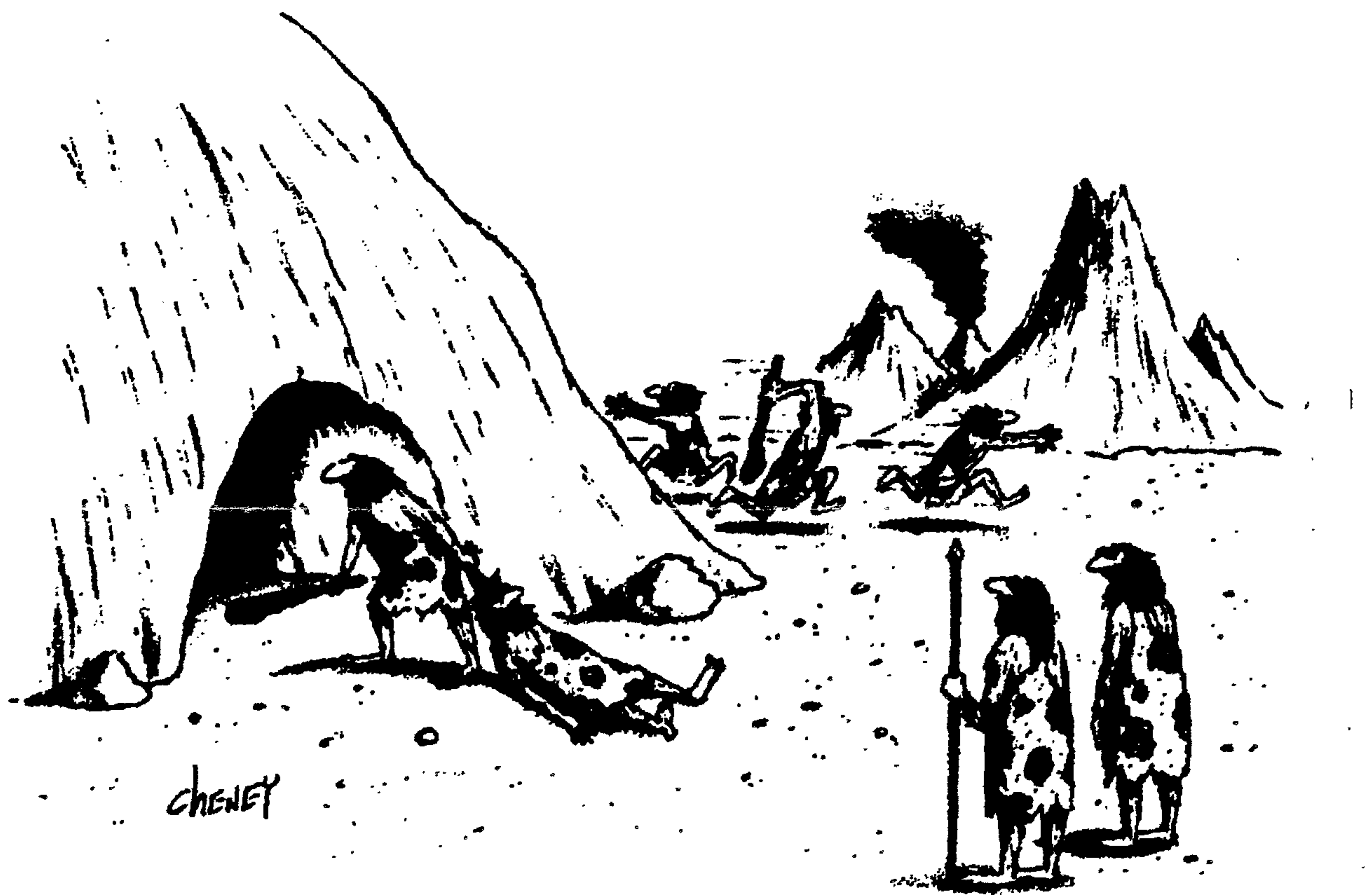
GJ REPORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We have received a request from the California Grand Jurors Association regarding a project to collect exemplary achievements of California grand juries from the last ten years. This is part of the Government Relations Committee of CGJA. They plan to pull all the examples into a "living document to tell the story of grand jury accomplishments and how the grand jury institution has had (sic) specific benefits to the furtherance of good government." This will be useful to help educate people about what grand juries do, and it certainly could be important to help sway legislators if grand jury reform issues are introduced.

We have been asked to submit information about our reports on Emancipation and Adoption of Foster Children. We also sent information regarding the report on education (*The Disabling of Public Education in Orange County*) which was praised at our last luncheon meeting.

What they are asking for is a summary of a grand jury report and responses and the beneficial effects it achieved. They are limited to 300 words or less.

Please contact Jim Nolan and he will send them on to CGJA. Please call if you have any questions (714-968-9032) or E-mail me at JFN3WHTHRS@AOL.COM.



"I see jury selection has begun."