

# Malibu East Dialogue

May 2000

Your Communication and Information Resource

## Board approves new no-smoking rule

### New no-smoking rule

By Jack Winans

At the March 28 board meeting, the following rule became effective immediately by unanimous vote.

**Smoking is not permitted inside the Malibu East building except in individual units, on individual balconies, or during private parties in the Windjammer Room, at the discretion of the host. In addition, smoking is prohibited in the pool enclosure.**

The ashtray in the lobby was removed and the doormen on duty have been instructed to inform smokers to move to the outside of the front entrance of the building where a concrete, sand-filled ashtray will be installed. The ashtrays located near all of the elevator entrances will be retained for fire-safety purposes.

A board member suggested in jest that an amendment to the rule should be made for the benefit of Martina Molins, that smoking be prohibited also in unit 25AB. Although our board president, Marcel Molins, is a smoker, he has aggressively pushed forward the acceptance of this new no-smoking rule.

The Community Associations Institute reports that some associations have gone so far as to prohibit smoking in certain limited common elements such as balconies, patios and other outside areas. This is understandable where smoke and smoking odors drift to an outside or inside area where residents may expect reasonable unencumbered use of their property.

Suitable signage that is tasteful and discrete will be installed at the front entrance and in those areas where smoking was previously permitted.

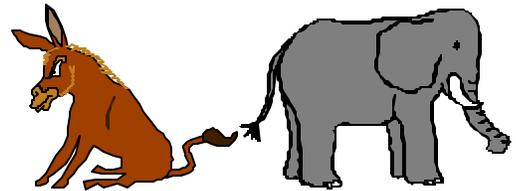
## MECA voting results

### March 21<sup>st</sup> primary election

By Thomas C. Vaughan

Malibu East Condominium is the sole occupant of the 22nd Precinct of the 48th Ward. Therefore, for each election, MECA residents have the luxury of voting in our lobby with our neighbors. This convenience and the building's political awareness usually result in better than average turnouts. The March primary continued that trend. Officially, our precinct had 587 registered voters, and we saw 298, or 51%, exercise their citizenship rights to direct the nomination of the political parties' candidates. Early estimates for the whole city have 32% voting on average. Of the 298 MECA voters, 257 opted for the Democratic ballot, 39 for the Republican ballot, and two for the non-partisan, advisory referendum-only ballot.

Of the races of general interest on the Democratic side, Al Gore received 81%



over Bill Bradley's 19% of presidential voters, Harry Osterman 82% over Claude Walker's 18% for state representative, and Dorthy Brown received 51% and Joe Moore 21% out of the four-person field for clerk of the Circuit Court. Our state senator and MECA resident, Carol Ronen, ran unopposed in addition to Jan Schakowsky, our incumbent 9th Congressional District representative. The Republican ballots revealed 65% for George W. Bush, 27% for John McCain, and 8% for Alan L. Keyes. Dennis J. Driscoll received 77% versus Leonard R. Reinebach's 23% for the 9th Congressional District. The advisory referendum on use of the tobacco lawsuit settlement received 194 yes and 25 no votes.

Working the 16 hour day for this election as election judges were MECA residents Richard Appelt, Adeline Kalant, Betty Mayian, Emily Miskell and myself and Dick Collins from neighboring Malibu Condominium.

There is time to register for the November 7 general election. The process is quick and quite painless at the Board of Election Commissioners offices at 69 West Washington (the Brunswick Building across from the Civic Center). Periodically, the board also has registration booths set up at neighborhood locations in Chicago. Watch for publication of such opportunities.

Our condolences to the family and friends of August Sylvain, Irwin Schmidt and former resident Scott Morgan.

# MECA board meeting notes

by Elaine Winans



## MECA board meeting March 28, 2000

Attendance: 10 board members, 2 management representatives and 17 residents

Absent: Richard Strauss, Judy Walker

### OPEN FORUM 1

#### Resident comments and questions:

- 1) Can we have blinds put up on the Community Room windows? The afternoon sun is blinding. *This is reasonable and will be gone in couple of weeks, but Vito will look into it.*
- 2) Valet cars are being parked in front of the north side access to the elevator doors on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor again. *This is a no-parking area and will be addressed with the garage manager.*
- 3) Who will enforce the no-smoking rule in the lobby? *The doormen.*
- 4) Will the lobby ashtray be taken away? *Yes, but the ashtrays at the elevator doors on all floors will remain for fire-safety purposes.*
- 5) What about cigarette butt litter outside the front entrance. *We can put a sand-filled, concrete ashtray at the front entrance. We can also put up tasteful signs to communicate our new no-smoking policy.*
- 6) I sometimes see a maintenance or cleanliness problem that is not corrected for several days. How often is the building walked? *The staff walks the building every day, by Vito Senese once a week, and Dean Lerner does spot inspections. All residents are encouraged to report "things" they see. Don't be afraid to be a nudge.*
- 7) Some equipment in the Fitness Room does not work. How costly would it be to get some simple dumbbells, just the small ones? *Unfortunately, small items tend to "walk away."*
- 8) What about the availability of the pool this summer? *Some of the*

*work we had hoped to have done by now has been delayed by the weather. The pool will be closed some mornings and during sand-blasting. We will try to keep it open as much as possible and as safety concerns allow it.*

- 9) The residents present were asked for a show of hands for support of

Please keep in mind that the meeting notes are not the official record of the MECA Board of Directors meetings. The official minutes are generally approved at the following meeting and may be viewed or copied in the management office.

the proposed no-smoking rule. *The majority present voted for the rule.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- 1) **Financial statement**  
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,825,153.
- 2) **Delinquency report**  
The alleged inadequacies of the lockbox procedures for NSF charges were discussed. Sudler is researching alternate banks for our lockbox.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 3) **Rules and Regulations**  
Last year's work will be printed

### Cable

We still have 90 channels at the same price at this time.

- and distributed to the committee members for review.
- 4) **Cable**  
We still have 90 channels at the same price at this time.
- 5) **Commercial Property**  
The board will have another walk-through of the property. The sign is up and new mats and runners. Ceiling tiles have been replaced and the painting is done.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT Items requiring board action

- 1) **New no-smoking rule proposal**  
The new rule (see page 1) was approved unanimously by the board. The issues of enforcement and signage were discussed.
- 2) **Insurance renewal proposal**  
The board will accept a new insurance contract with a Sudler endorsed program at the end of the current contract. This program offers substantial savings to MECA.
- 3) **Commercial property issues**  
A proposal for an espresso bar was tabled and no action was taken at this time. Concern was expressed that this competition might hinder the profitability of our convenient store.
- 4) **MECA letterhead**  
A new logo and letterhead for MECA was approved as designed by Secretary Larry Creter.
- 5) **E-mail for office**  
A trial e-mail account was approved for the management office for e-mail traffic with the board and with commercial contacts.
- 6) **New Braille letters for elevators**  
Tabled for review by the Aesthetics Committee
- 7) **Charity fund appeals in the Dialogue**  
Direction was given by the board to the Dialogue that direct charity appeals were inappropriate, but charity announcements and letters to the editor concerning charity appeals that were newsworthy and of consequence to Malibu East residents could be treated as news stories. The Dialogue editor has discretion in these issues.
- 8) **2000 pool opening**  
Safety is the key factor. The pool and surrounding area must be cleaned of construction debris daily before opening. Information will be posted on channel 95, the bulletin board, in the Dialogue and memos

when appropriate. An advertisement is out for lifeguards. We will probably be down from the five that we had last year to two this year as the pool will be closed many mornings for balcony repair work.

**Items not requiring board action**

1) **New sod situation**

A contingency plan will be made in case the city does not replace the sod that they destroyed last year on Sheridan Road to go into effect May 1 if the city has not acted by that date.

2) **Unit sales**

24C	\$189,000
26B	\$187,000

**Leases**

12L	\$850
30M	\$850
41G	\$1,250
44B	\$1,490

3) **Garage report**

**Claims**

Approved:	2
Denied:	0
Total:	2

**Waiting lists**

Single self-park:	66
Tandem self-park:	5
Second car:	1

**Monthly parkers**

Valet:	316
Tandem:	85
Single:	141
Preferred:	5
Engineer:	no charge
Motorcycle:	3
Total:	550

New monthlies:	6
Cancellations:	4

The meeting ended at 10:30 p.m. and went into closed session.

**MECA board meeting  
Tuesday, April 25**

Attendance:

10 board members, 2 management representatives and 10 residents

Absent: Richard Strauss, Scott Young  
**OPEN FORUM 1**

**Resident comments and questions:**

- 1) How long does a unit balcony railing paint job take? **About two hours — call to be placed on the schedule.**
- 2) Any news on the cable contract? **No news is good news; we're still getting 90 channels at the cost of 45.**
- 3) My security key is programmed for the third floor where I self-park, but not programmed to call the elevator on the second floor when I go there to my storage locker. **When you get the storage locker room key, also get a security key for that floor from the doorman.**
- 4) Are we going to install no-smoking signs? **Yes, the no-smoking decal on the lobby/garage sliding door has been approved for the rest of the entrances.**
- 5) The Glenlake driveway asphalt is cracking. **Both entrances will be resurfaced when the streets are recovered this summer.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 1) **Financial statement**  
Balance on hand, cash and reserves — \$2,805,930
- 2) **Delinquency report**  
After an account is 60 days in arrears, a five-day notice is sent to the owner. The Finance Committee was asked to consider the usefulness of an additional 30-day arrears notice.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) **Rules and Regulations**  
The rewritten garage rules have been distributed to the board for perusal.
- 2) **Floor Representatives**  
Ila Chaiken volunteered to chair the committee.
- 3) **Social**  
The Captain's Walk open house will include refreshments, decorations with pastel balloons and fly-

ers. Invitations have been sent to Malibu and East Point. All but one tenant will be open Saturday, May 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. for the affair. We will arrange for additional security.

Letters to the concerned politicians requesting Sunday service for the 147 express bus can be picked up and mailed from the management office (see ASCO news, page 10).

4) **ASCO**

A request came from El Lago and Tierra to support their petition against a proposed 15-story, 96-unit high-rise. The petition will be available for signatures at the doorman's station, and the board secretary will prepare a letter from the board to the appropriate politicians.

5) **Commercial Property**

A reduced parking rate for 9-5 parkers is being considered to benefit tenants, customers and residents' guests. A tenant is still being sought for the empty bank space. Tenants who have been using the empty back east space for storage have been told that they will have to remove their stuff by June 1 so that we can make it ready for rental.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT  
Items requiring board action**

- 1) **Braille tags for elevators**  
An entire set for all the elevators will be ordered and installed in-house.
- 2) **Fitness Room equipment**  
The stair machine and an old treadmill are broken. It was proposed that replacing one machine per year would keep the equipment up to date.
- 3) **Landscape enhancements**  
A landscaping company is preparing a plan for the building on spec. We need to address the atrium and the fourth floor deck, which has not had any attention during the exterior repairs. A proposal to redo the atrium was approved that includes removing existing plant material, mound the area, put in hemlocks and evergreens and add color to the ends with impatiens. The cost is not to exceed \$5,000.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

- 4) **Video training tapes**  
Employee training material concerning policy will be researched for videos in English and written material in both English and Spanish.
- 5) **Admissions procedures**  
The Admission Committee in cooperation with the management office was directed to prepare a workable and reasonable rule concerning time constraints and the submission and approval of admissions packages.
- 6) **Right of first refusal**  
The board will exercise the right of first refusal on unit 15F.

**Items not requiring board action**

- 1) **Exterior & balcony repairs**  
(See management report, page 8.)
- 2) **Sod update**  
The sod on Sheridan and Glenlake will be replaced the first of May for \$2,200.
- 3) **Unit sales**  
26B    \$187,000
- 4) **Garage report**

**Claims**

Approved:	1
Denied:	1
Total:	2

**Waiting lists**

Single self-park:	67
Tandem self-park:	2
Second car:	1

**Monthly parkers**

Valet:	307
Tandem:	82
Single:	142
Preferred:	4
Engineer:	NA
Motorcycle:	3
Total:	538

- New monthlies: 4
- Cancellations: 13
- 5) **Board building tour**  
Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m.
- 6) **Front door replacement**  
Will be installed shortly
- 7) **CU unit/receiving door**  
Researching replacement requirements.
- 8) **New stationery update**

Received (resembles new Dialogue masthead).

- 9) **Janitor strike**  
This will affect only commercial buildings.
- 10) **Balcony replacement**  
Two balconies in the A tier will be completely removed and replaced. Their balcony doors and those be-

low will be barricaded with plywood for protection from debris and swinging scaffolds.

The meeting ended at 10:15 p.m. and went into closed session.

**Maintenance**

*By Barbara Lee Engel*



First we will consider maintenance of our flowers. Some flowering plants like geraniums will bloom most of the summer, but in order for them to bloom consistently we apply a term called "dead heading." This means we should remove the old blossoms. We do this by pinching or cutting off the bloomed/faded blossom from the stem. If the entire stem has bloomed, then remove the entire stem by cutting it about two inches from the soil line. This encourages plants to bloom again as we have cut the plant's normal cycle of blooming to produce seeds their normal cycle of life. This can be done for most all flowering plants. Another reason to dead-head is in consideration of our neighbors. Dying or dead blossoms blow off and can make an unsightly mess for the units below us and the fourth floor deck. Plants like impatiens do not need to be dead-headed, as this plant tends to flower even when it is in seed.

If you're trying your hand at the garden herbs on your balcony (or in your home), do not allow the plant to produce flowers and bloom. Most blooming herbs will stop producing the green leaves you would normally use in the kitchen. So pinch off those flower stems.

If you're attempting tomato or peppers for the first time and you're not receiving flowers that produce fruit within the first month, try this: When your plant is in flower, take a Q-Tip and very gently brush the Q-Tip into the flower to remove the pollen. Take this pollinated Q-Tip and brush it gently across the other flowers. Even though we have the wind to help in pollination, sometimes nature needs a little help. Remember to stake up your tomato plants.

What to do with the extra soil? You might want to purchase some large Rubbermaid type of containers to store your soil, especially during the winter months. You have spent time and money on your soil mixtures; don't let them just blow away. This manner of storage should have a lid that really locks down and will not blow away under high winds. Next year you can just stir up the soil and add a little more peat moss as the peat will degrade into natural plant material.

**Web site suggestions for questions and suggestions:**

- www.hometime.com/projects/landgrdn.htm.
- Purdue University: [Bluestem.hort.purdue.edu/plant](http://Bluestem.hort.purdue.edu/plant).
- North America gardens: [www.gardenvisit.com](http://www.gardenvisit.com)
- Horticulture tips: [www.hort/mag.com](http://www.hort/mag.com).
- Chicago Botanical Gardens: for advice on just about any plant, tree or shrub, indoors or out: [www.chicago-botanic.org](http://www.chicago-botanic.org)
- Gethsemane Garden Center, 5739 N. Clark, Chicago, 773-878-5915, has great advice but no Web site.

Gardening is a wonderful way to take your mind off the day, give you a wonderful view and a feeling of pride. Enjoy your garden, be creative, use colors and relax.

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*Barbara Lee Engel holds degrees in Botany, Horticulture and Environmental Biology and has been a contractor with Amlings as a floral designer and garden expert.*

### Social Committee survey

The Social Committee would like to have the opinions of the residents of Malibu East. Listed below are several activities that we are suggesting for both inside and outside of the building. Please put check marks next to the items that interest you and add any suggestions you may have.

Leave your finished survey at the doorman's station or at the management office for the Social Committee.

Thank you for your input.  
Sandy Chaet, Social Chair

#### *Inside activities:*

- |                                                 |                                           |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid speaker           | <input type="checkbox"/> Just "mingling"  | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday parties            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free speaker           | <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing party    | <input type="checkbox"/> Game night                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You volunteer to speak | <input type="checkbox"/> Brunch           | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie night                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pot-luck dinner        | <input type="checkbox"/> Square dance     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sing-a-long                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appetizer party        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice cream social | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion group           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner party           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery night    | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/investment talks |

#### *Outside activities:*

- |                                   |                                   |                                                |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunches  | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnics  | <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon lake cruise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinners  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plays    | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening lake cruise   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brunches | <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike group            |

#### *Suggestions for activities and topics:*

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#### *Optional:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Calendar

by Rose Wandel



## BERGER PARK CULTURAL CENTER

### Summer Programs

Register now for summer programs — art, music, drama, writing, pottery, jewelry making and many more.

6205 N. Sheridan Rd.  
312-742-7871

## EDGEWATER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### "Come to the Casbah"

Spring benefit party at Reza's Restaurant on Clark St. Music, wine, beer, food, fun.

\$25 in advance, \$30 at door.

## EDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CAPS 24<sup>th</sup> Dist. Beat #33SD

Come meet our beat police.

Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m.

(1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of every month)

1210 W. Elmdale

312-744-0718

## NORTH LAKESIDE CULTURAL CENTER

### "Kindred Courage"

Artistry of African and African-American women.

May 5 – 7 p.m., \$2

Opening program includes James Perri playing jazz guitar.

Exhibit through June 19

### "Around the World in Sixty Minutes"

Folktales of many cultures with storyteller Elyne Handler.

May 7 – 3 p.m.

\$5, \$3 members/seniors, children

free

### Ars Musica

Celebration of spring and Mother's Day

Music ensemble of singers.

May 14 – 3 p.m.

\$5, \$3 members/seniors, children free

### "Author to Actor"

Readings by actors from the works of memoir writers.

May 21 – 3 pm. Free

### "Robin Hood"

Equity Library Theatre

Directed by Frank Farrell

May 26, 27 – 8 pm.

\$12, \$10 members/seniors/students

Call for reservations, parking.

### Neighborhood Music Consort

Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon

Music instruction – Free

Ongoing through June

6219 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-743-4477

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

### Summer sessions

Ages 5-15

June 19 – July 28

Call for brochure & information.

6224 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-262-4446 ext. 346

## Ongoing THEATER/SHOWINGS

### BOXER REBELLION THEATRE

#### "Hair"

Through June 10

\$12, \$10 seniors

Thur./Fri./Sat. – 8 p.m.

## CENTER THEATRE

### "Is There Anything Going On Upstairs?"

A jazz-theater social jam of streetwise satirical jive, comedy, cabaret singing, etc., by Denise LaGrassa.

Open run – \$15

Fri. – 8 p.m., Sun. – 3 p.m.

1346 W. Devon

773-508-5422

## ENNUI CAFÉ

### Music

Wed. & Sun.

No cover charge

6981 N. Sheridan Rd.

773-973-2233

## LIFELINE THEATRE

### "Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle"

A storybook come to life of a woman who lives in an upside-down house and does magic.

Through May 28 – \$7

Sat. – 1 & 3 p.m., Sun. – 1 p.m.

6912 N. Glenwood

773-761-4477

## NO-EXIT CAFÉ

### Music

8 p.m. Thurs. through Sun.

9 p.m. Mon. through Wed.

6970 N. Glenwood

773-743-3355

## PEGASUS PLAYERS

### "Grand View"

A story with characters modeled after political figures from the Chicago 1940s. Set in Saratoga Springs, NY.

\$15 – \$24

1145 W. Wilson

773-878-9761

## RAVEN THEATRE

### "A View From the Bridge"

Through May 7 – \$20

Fri./Sat. – 8 p.m., Sun. – 3 p.m.

6931 N. Clark St.

773-338-2177

## THE EDGEWATER SINGERS

### "A Musical Feast"

Eat, Sing and Be Merry

Sat., May 6 – 7:30 p.m. Free

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

1500 W. Elmdale

## THE PETER JONES GALLERY

### "The Family"

Exhibition of life-sized wire antelope sculptures by Don Seiden.

Sat., 12-6 p.m.

Sun. 3-6 p.m. or by appt.

773-472-6725

773-262-1463

## COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

### Andersonville Midsommarfest

5300 N. Clark

June 10 & 11

### Margate Park Unity Fest

4921 N. Marine Dr.

June 24

### St. Andrew Festival

5649 N. Sheridan

July 9

### Edgewater Days Street Festival

1100 W. Granville  
July 22 & 23

### MECA EVENTS/MEETINGS

#### **Dialogue Committee meeting**

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 p.m. — Community Room

#### **Thursday afternoon**

#### **social meeting**

Thursday, May 18

2:00 p.m. — Community Room

#### **Captain's Walk open house**

Saturday, May 20

2 to 4 p.m.

#### **MECA board meeting**

Tuesday, May 23

7:30 p.m. — Windjammer Room

Leave event and meeting notices at the desk for the Dialogue.

## Breakers 'Senior Prom'

*By Betty Mayian*

The Breakers is hosting a 'Senior Prom' on Saturday, May 20 from 7-10 p.m. for seniors 62+, \$10 per single or \$15 per couple. Enjoy music, refreshments and dance to Ron Mill's orchestra. Proceeds go to the Edgewater Historical Society. For more information or to RSVP, call Carolyn at 773-878-5333.

The Edgewater Historical Society will hold a 'Hard Hat' party to support the new Edgewater Historical Society Museum. Sunday, May 21 — punch in: 1 p.m.; lunch break: 2 p.m.; punch out: 4 p.m. Donation, \$50. RSVP with check to: Ms. Dianne Daleiden, 5550 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60640.

## Captain's Walk open house

*By Grace Bergbom*

Mark your calendars for this Social Committee-sponsored event:

Captain's Walk open house

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 p.m.

Malibu East, Malibu and East Point residents are invited to visit and meet the tenants of our commercial unit, the Captain's Walk.

Refreshments will be served.

## Letter to the editor

*From Steven J. Colen*

In the most recent issue of The Dialogue, two letters were published outlining opposing viewpoints on the Cable TV issue facing our community.

When taking into consideration the narrow margin of the vote (107-101) and noting that the vote total represents less than half of the building, it seems presumptuous to refer to that vote as the stated "will of the owners" as does the letter outlining the position of the Board.

It should be pointed out that not only was the vote taken during the Holiday season but that the options were listed with the Board's favored position (scaled back Cable service for the current price) as choice "A." As strongly as I favor the retention of the current service, I had to read over the choices two or three times before understanding that I wanted to vote for option B. The natural assumption, I believe, is that the more inclusive and current service would be listed as "A."

Neither in the original survey, nor in Board Director Cloud's letter of justification in The Dialogue, is mentioned the channels that we would have taken from us: The History Channel, Classic Sports, VH-1 and ESPN2 (where a large amount of Major League Baseball will be broadcast this year) are a few among the many.

The characterization by Mr. Cloud of the additional cost for retaining the current service as being "hundreds of thousands of dollars" is certainly misleading at best. As pointed out by Ms. Chase, Ms. Siegal and Mr. Hughes in their letter, the immediate increase is \$4.98 per month and averages \$8.82 per month over the next five years. This still leaves us at about \$20 per month. A short couple of years ago we paid anywhere from \$35 to \$50 per month for an extremely limited basic package. Talk to other cable customers and compare our service and cost and understand the favorable terms we are receiving. For the Board to balk over a moderate increase that still leaves us far, far better off than in years past is shortsighted and smacks of ego-driven politics as opposed to protecting the interests of this community.

The only "hundreds of thousands of dollars" involved here is that which will be lost in future unit sales.

## Letter to the Editor:

*From Jared R. Cloud*

*Cable Committee Chair*

In response to Mr. Colen's letter, I can only reiterate the salient points from my letter in the March Dialogue. First, the timing of the survey was dictated by 21st Century, not by the Board. Second, the Board itself was evenly divided on which proposal to support; one of the reasons we placed so much importance on the vote of the owners was that the Board as a whole did not have a favored position. Finally, because of the automatic renewal last summer of the 1994 Pro-Tech contract (taken over by 21st Century), Malibu East has a contract in place for 45 channels at \$11.60 per unit per month; the Board could not choose to accept a new, more expensive contract in direct contradiction to the expressed preference of the majority of owners voting.

At this time, we continue to hope that 21st Century will offer a way for individual owners to buy the complete cable package, and the Board remains willing to discuss any reasonable proposal. Thank you for your comments.

## Balcony tips

Do you have a green thumb? Does your balcony sparkle with life and color? Please share your secrets and a picture of your high-rise garden with the Dialogue.



## What's happening around the building

by Vito Senese  
MECA Association Manager



## Theater review

By Thomas C. Vaughan

Thought I should share with you a wonderful piece of Chicago theater now being performed at the Black Ensemble Theater currently located at the Uptown Center Hull House, 4520 North Beacon. Currently running is "My heart is crying, crying..." (The Jackie Wilson Story)." Even the Chicago Tribune, which usually doesn't editorialize in its half-inch "Friday" section squibs, says, "show stopping performances and a rousing score." Wilson helped transition R & B into rock 'n roll and pioneered movement and physical choreography into stage performances by popular singers. Elvis Presley credited Wilson as a mentor and for influencing his style. You'll remember most of Wilson's tunes as musical icons of the 50s and 60s. The 11 member cast is captivating and the eight-man band sure is equal to Green Mill quality. Catch the most talented lead, Chester Gregory II, before he is snatched from Chicago by Hollywood.

Tickets can be ordered by telephone, (773) 769-4451, and are \$25. Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday in this intimate, under-200-seat venue but are selling out a couple of weeks ahead of time. On-site parking is available if you get there before 7:30 for the 8:00 p.m. curtain (4:00 p.m. Sunday). Beacon is halfway between Clark and Broadway, and the theater is about a block south of Wilson Avenue. Street parking in this neighborhood seems real safe.

### Directions:

By El: Take the El to the Wilson stop, head west on Wilson, and then south on Beacon.

By car: Lakeshore to the Montrose exit, west on Montrose then north on Beacon.

Enjoy!

By most calendars spring should have arrived by now, but since we live in Chicago, we know better. Your staff has been working very hard to keep up with the unseasonable weather and prepare the building for summer. The staff is currently painting the balcony railings on the north side of the building. If you live in the M, K, H, or F tiers and have not made an appointment to have your railings painted, please contact the office as soon as possible. We would like to have all of the railings painted by June 1, 2000, but we will need the cooperation of all the residents on the north side of the building.

4th floor deck while the crews are working because the safety of our residents is the most important aspect of the project.

**Pools:  
The pools will be opened sometime in mid-May, weather permitting.**

The pools will be opened sometime in mid-May, weather permitting. However, due to the location of the repairs being



During the 2000 exterior fascia and balcony repair project, Golf Construction will barricade the sliding doors on the east side of the A and B tiers. The sliding doors need to be secured in order to enhance the safety of our residents and the crews when they are working. The barricades will remain up until the entire project is completed, hopefully sometime in early November. However, residents will be able to use their balcony on the north or south side of the building when the crews are not working.

The exterior balcony and fascia repair work has begun on the east side of the building. Golf Construction is currently performing the breakout phase of the project on the southeast corner of the building and on the A and B tiers. The 2000 project is scheduled to end in early November. It is very important that ALL residents in the A and B tiers do NOT go out on their balconies until all the work is completed. It is equally important for ALL residents NOT to go out on the

done to the building and the close proximity to the pools, the pools may be closed on some days when the crews are working. On the days when this happens, the pools will open after the crews have left for the day and your staff can prepare the pools for opening. The Association is closing the pools on these "work" days in order to maintain an enjoyable environment for the residents when the pools are open. We intend to keep these days to a minimum and we thank you in advance for your consideration.

### Dear Etta Kitt



I like to take my dog with me when I go to the store and I always tie him up carefully outside of the store where he can't bother anyone, but someone told me that I don't care about my dog if I do this. What's that all about?

### Love me, don't leave me

We've all seen dogs tied to bicycle racks, cart fences and parking meters, especially outside Dominicks and Walgreen's. This is quite possibly the fastest way to lose your dog to a thief.

Also, keep in mind that bike racks are intended for everyone's use. And few people, even dog lovers, feel comfortable approaching an unattended animal. And with good reason. Tied up without you around, your dog may become possessive and not **LET** others approach. And even if it doesn't, for those people who fear them, **ANY** dog is a threat.

### I.D. me

Thousand of dogs in Chicago are lost by well-meaning owners every year. "Somebody accidentally left the gate open," or "We don't know she got out of the house," or "I was at the street fair and turned my back for a second," or "I took him off the leash for just a minute and a car's backfire spooked him and he was gone," are the usual laments.

The lucky ones wear collars all the time, indoors and out, with city licenses, vaccination tags or medallions with their owner's name, address and phone number engraved on them. With proper I.D. your dog has a much better change of being returned. Without it, the chances are very slim that you'll ever see each other again.

*Condensed from a series of articles from the David R. Lee Animal Care Shelter, City of Chicago*

### 'Town Crier' announcement

We welcome all new residents to our building, including:



If you have information concerning talented or famous

## Balcony Man by Scott Virzi



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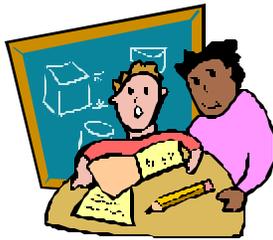
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- May we be your maid/cleaning service?

## High-rise petition

By Sandy Chaet

We need your help in opposing a proposal to build a 15-story 96-unit high-rise at 6151 N. Sheridan (the empty lot between the El Lago and Tiara condominiums).



A high-rise in this location would add substantially to neighborhood traffic congestion due to the proposed project's lack of guest parking and space for moving vans and garbage trucks and would also reduce lakefront green space.

Please sign the petition at our doorman's station.

## Citywide spring clean-up May 6

From Ernie Constantino,  
aide to Alderman Mary Ann Smith

Mayor Richard M. Daley has authorized a citywide day of spring clean-up activities on Saturday, May 6. "Clean & Green" asks block clubs, schools, businesses, community groups and other organizations to participate in projects to beautify their neighborhoods. In return, Streets & Sanitation provides the cleaning tools and trash bags in support of these efforts. In addition, free paint will be made available to groups interested in covering graffiti or beautifying green-painted lamp poles on arterial streets. Please call 312-744-4611/4617 to participate in any of these activities. With your support, we will be able to join our fellow Chicagoans in making Chicago an even more beautiful city.

## ASCO news

By Sandy Chaet

Many people are hoping that the No. 147 express bus Sunday service will be reinstated. This would help people who do not drive, as well as ease local traffic congestion. ASCO is asking residents to help with a letter-writing campaign asking for the Sunday express bus service to be reinstated. Letters should be addressed to Alderman Smith and a copy to CTA President Frank Kruesi. You may write your own letter or get one from the doorman's station or the management office. Sign the letter, put your address under your signature and return it to the management office. I will take them to Alderman Smith and the CTA president. Your help is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to obtain e-mail from ASCO, please leave your name and e-mail address for me at the doorman's station.

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## The Dialogue

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Articles and opinions by the MECA **Dialogue** staff and contributors are presented as their personal views and do not necessarily represent the views of the association or its Board of Directors and management.

Letters to the MECA **Dialogue** Committee are encouraged. Please be as brief as possible. The MECA **Dialogue** staff reserves the right to edit letters to fit available space and to print only those with constructive content. Letters to the committee may be left at the management office.



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