



# STRAIGHT TALK *REPORTER*

*The Newsletter for the Straight Talk Television Show*

[www.straighttalktv.com](http://www.straighttalktv.com)

Volume 2 Number 5

May 2007

## CSULB President King Alexander Looks Ahead



**Dr. F. King Alexander is President of California State University, Long Beach.**

Dr. F. King Alexander was named the sixth President of California State University, Long Beach in November of 2005 after serving as the President of Murray State University in Kentucky from 2001-2005. California State University, Long Beach is the nation's 25th largest university and is recognized as a **"university of choice"** among students throughout California and the western United States.

Dr. Alexander is a well respected national expert in domestic and international higher education finance and public policy. His research on university revenue and expenditure patterns has been featured in *The Economist*, *The New York Times*,

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Australian*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. Dr. Alexander's efforts to improve federal higher education policy has contributed to the development of Congressional legislation advancing the "net tuition concept" in order to enhance public accountability and future funding of higher education institutions.

Prior to serving as president of two public universities Dr. Alexander was a faculty member and director of the Higher Education Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1997-2001. In addition to being President of California State University, Long Beach he also serves as a faculty affiliate at Cornell University's Higher Education Research Institute (CHERI).

(Continued on Page 3)

## Dr. Mario Molina Recognized Nationally



**Dr. J. Mario Molina is President/CEO of Molina Healthcare, Inc.**

Dr. J. Mario Molina, is President and Chief Executive Officer of Molina Healthcare, Inc. In 1980, his father, C. David Molina, MD, founded Molina Healthcare to address the special needs of low-income patients. After his father's death in 1996, Dr. Molina was elected Chairman of the Board and assumed the chief executive role at Molina Healthcare.

Over the last 25 years, Dr. Molina has served in various capacities at Molina Healthcare. From 1991 to 1994, he served as the Medical Director, working with providers and clinics while overseeing medical and risk management issues. In 1994, he became Vice President responsible for provider contracting, member services, market and quality assurance.

In 2002, Dr. Molina received the Ernst & Young Greater Los Angeles Entrepreneur of the Year Award and was named as an honoree of the Greater Long Beach National Conference

for Community and Justice. Additionally in 2002, Dr. Molina was inducted into the Long Beach Community College Hall of Fame. Dr. Molina was also featured in *Time* magazine as one of the **25 most influential Hispanics in America** in 2005.

Dr. Molina is a member of numerous organizations including the American College of Physicians. He is on the board at the California Medical Association Foundation and is chairman of the board for the Aquarium of the Pacific. Dr. Molina is also a board member of Homeboy Industries and the Association of Health Insurance Plans.

Dr. Molina received his degree from the University of Southern California and performed his internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland. He is board certified in Internal Medicine as well as in Endocrinology and Metabolism.

*Dr. Molina will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 14 & May 21.*

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## Sponsor Spotlight—Buster's Beach House: A Long Beach Treasure



Located right on the water at Alamitos Bay, Buster's Beach House & Longboard Bar is **one of Long Beach's great hidden treasures** accessible from both land and sea. Its beautiful bay and ocean view offers an absolutely enchanting ambiance any time of day. Breakfast at Buster's is a real treat with a wide variety of choices from Belgian waffles and macadamia nut pancakes to hearty skillet and omelets. The lunch and dinner cuisine is an elegant ensemble of international flavors in seafood, pasta, ribs, and other entrees. And the variety of daily specials will entice anyone's taste buds.

**Buster's Longboard Bar** offers a lively mix of music Thursday through Saturday with their house band **Flyer**, playing at Buster's for **over twenty-seven years**. The fun loving trio play

an exciting collection of classic rock hits and new rock favorites from bands like Jimmy Buffet, The Eagles, Santana, and Shania Twain. **Wednesdays and Sundays** also offer a variety of music with bands like Tony Rogers, The Whooligans, Elnora and Sumpthin' Cookin' and many others. Yet what brings it all together is the **enthusiastic attentiveness of the Buster's staff**. Dressed in fun Hawaiian shirts, everyone there aims to please. Buster's Beach House truly is one of Long Beach's best dining experiences.

**Buster's Beach House  
& Longboard Bar**  
 168 Marina Drive  
 (562) 598-9431

[www.bustersbeachhouse.com](http://www.bustersbeachhouse.com)



# Seaport Marina Project Up for Approval



**Bob Garrison is Vice President, Land Acquisition/Asset Management Lennar Communities.**

Bob is responsible for directing Lennar's acquisition, disposition, and asset management activities in Orange and portions of Los Angeles Counties. These responsibilities include tactical planning to guide acquisition efforts and support the Land and Homebuilding Division's overall strategic plan, asset management of Lennar's active communities, and the community relations & jurisdictional work on Lennar's behalf.

Bob has a wide range of experience in the acquisition and asset management field, including direct responsibility for the development of Lennar's Central Park West development in the Irvine Business Complex and continued involvement in the Seaport Marina hotel property in East Long Beach.

**Central Park West** is Orange County's first urban master planned community that includes a mix of office, retail, and nearly condominiums in varying densities including two residential high rise towers.

**Seaport Marina** is a high end mixed-use development including 170,000 square feet of upscale retail, vertically integrated with 425 condominiums. The spectacular setting of this property on the Alamitos Bay Marina in the highly desirable East Long Beach area makes this a "one of a kind" development.

The Seaport Marina project has been approved by the Planning Commission and will shortly go before the Long Beach City Council for approval.

Bob is a member of the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) Orange County District Council Executive Committee, the Building Industry Association (BIA) and the California Redevelopment Association. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of Southern California, and numerous ULI, BIA, and other industry events. Bob is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara.

*Bob Garrison will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 14 & May 21.*

## President King Alexander (continued from page 1)

Dr. Alexander received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin--Madison in Higher Education Finance and Public Policy, a Master's of Science degree from Oxford University (England) in Comparative Education Policy, and a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University in political science.

President Alexander will discuss campus growth and the future of CSULB, the higher education landscape, and the

focus on making the campus environment even more hospitable and service-oriented for students. Special attention is being given to providing more locations where students and faculty can meet outside the classroom and beyond "regular" campus hours.

*President Alexander will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the week of May 7.*

## Flyer To Celebrate 28 Years at Buster's

Flyer, the popular house band at Buster's Beach House, will be celebrating their 28th Anniversary at the same location this June. The dynamic trio of **Todd & Nancy Hartmann** and **Jim Forney** have a loyal following that covers generations of music lovers.

The Anniversary Celebration starts **Thursday, June 7 at 7pm** with a four course, price-fixed dinner in the lounge. Choice of entrees includes Mainlander Prime Rib,



Island Glazed Salmon, and Jamaican Jerk Chicken. Following dinner, Flyer will kick in with their special anniversary performance, including some surprise guests. Reservations are required.

Advance tickets can also be purchased for the **June 9 Saturday night Celebration** (\$10 in advance or \$15 at the door). To make your dinner reservation or to purchase tickets, call **(562) 598-9431**.

## Thought of the Month

*With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?*

— Jay Leno



# CSULB Gets New Head Basketball Coach



**Dan Monson is Head Men's Basketball Coach at Long Beach State.**

Dan Monson was named as the new Head Men's Basketball Coach at Long Beach State on April 7, 2007. Monson has been a Division I head coach for 10 years, most recently at the University of Minnesota. In ten years as a collegiate head coach Monson has a career record of 170-123, with seven trips to post-season play. Monson is the 16th head coach in Long Beach State men's basketball history.

Prior to accepting the Minnesota job in 1999, Monson was the head coach at Gonzaga for two years. In 1998-99 he led the Bulldogs to within a breath of the Final Four. Gonzaga, which went 28-7 on the year, defeated such notable NCAA powers as Minnesota, Stanford and Florida before bowing out in the Elite Eight to the eventual national champion, Connecticut.

All told, Monson spent 11 years helping build the Gonzaga program. He began as an assistant coach in 1988 and spent six years laying the groundwork. In 94/95 he was elevated to associate head coach under head coach Dan Fitzgerald. Three years later he took over full control of the Gonzaga program. He led Gonzaga to a West Coast Conference title in 1998 when the squad set a school record, and was named the **WCC Coach of the Year**.

**Vic Cegles is Director of Athletics at Long Beach State.**



Victor Cegles was selected as Director of Athletics at Long Beach State in April, 2006. Cegles came to Long Beach from Temple University, where he was the senior associate athletic director for external affairs for the past three years. Cegles is the **12th Director of Athletics** in the school's history and brings a wealth of collegiate experience with him to Long Beach.

He served 16 years at Arizona State University in athletic development and external affairs. While at Arizona State he led the athletics department's \$25 million capital campaign to enhance facilities and endowments and, among other responsibilities, supervised baseball, men's and women's golf, and women's gymnastics. He also was the assistant athletic director for development at Rutgers University for five years.

He holds a B.S. degree in business administration from Bucknell and a master's in counseling and student personnel services from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Cegles and his wife Bonnie have two sons, Vic who is a junior at Rutgers University and Casey, a sophomore at Towson University.

*Dan Monson and Vic Cegles will be our guests on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 14 & May 21.*

## Memorial Day Observance at Green Hills



An estimated 5,000 people are expected to participate in the Memorial Day Observance at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, the **largest Memorial Day observance in the Southland**. The Observance will take place on

**Monday, May 28, 2007** beginning at 10am.

Recognized as one of the best attended in the nation, this **Twenty-Second Annual Observance** will pay tribute to all men and women who have lost their lives in defense of this country, as well as those who have served and are now serving in our Armed Forces. Green Hills has a long tradition at this event of also recognizing and honoring the public safety officers who put themselves at risk on our behalf every day.

Among the many elected dignitaries who will be participating in this year's Memorial Day Observance are U.S. Congressman **Dana Rohrabacher**, USAFR Major and California Assemblyman **Ted Lieu**, and Former U.S. Con-

gressman **Steve Kuykendall**, a Vietnam Veteran Naval Aviator.

The Observance commences with a **procession of Color Guard units** representing the branches of our armed forces, veterans groups and local police

and fire departments. Other events will include: the traditional release of 100 doves and 1,500 balloons, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, special performances by Rodeo Drive Music, Navy Sea Cadets, the 21st Century Skydiving Team and the Navy Seals Skydiving Team. Music will be provided by the Brass Quintet from Navy Band Southwest, and the Cabar Feidh Bagpipe Band. The program will conclude with a **presentation of memorial wreaths, a 21-Gun Salute, the playing of Taps, flyovers, and a musical tribute**.



The Observance is free and open to the public. Visitors are advised to arrive early to allow for time to park and get seated. For further information about the event, call Green Hills Memorial Park at **(310) 521-4460**.



# Who Are Our Friends, Anyway?

## Reflecting upon Israel's 59th Birthday and the Significance of Our Country's Friendship with the Jewish State

Guest Column by  
**Rabbi Isaac Jeret**

It is a lesson that each of us has likely addressed with a teenager, or learned ourselves, at some point. How can we know who our true friends really are and how can we avoid friends who would betray us? However we phrase our responses to our children's painful betrayals, they usually center on the following principles. True friends share an outlook on life or genuinely respect each other's divergent perspectives. True friends share interests and passions or, at least, champion one another. True friends stand by one another in difficult times and support one another in moments of vulnerability. True friends do not turn away because it is expedient in the moment to do so.

Of course, no analogy can be carried to its extreme if it is to remain useful. The analogy of friendships enjoyed or endured by teenagers to geopolitical relationships falls short; the gravity of misplaced geo-political alliances is far greater and dire in consequence than that of any personal friendship. Therefore, as the State of Israel turns 59 years young, evermore a modern miracle exemplifying the spirit of liberty and democracy, and as we reconsider our military strategies in the Middle East, it behooves our nation, only 231 years young this coming July, to ask the question, who are our friends, anyway?

The recent release of the Baker-Hamilton Report on the war in Iraq has stirred a great deal of controversy. The report suggests that our country ought to engage the Iranians and the Syrians in dialogue to stem their support of the various terrorist movements in Iraq that kill and maim Iraqi civilians

and Iraqi and American soldiers daily and seek to undermine our objectives. The report suggests that through negotiations, the Iranians and Syrians might be persuaded to be helpful. At what cost? At the cost of our friends, of course. Though not stated in the report, the implication is inescapable, given that there is little other than Israel's land or its security that can be sold to the Syrians or Iranians in exchange for their "friendship." In the case of the Syrians, there is no need to extrapolate; the report puts Israel's Golan Heights, a plateau used by the Syrians to terrorize Israelis for decades, squarely on the table for consideration.

It's not nearly as complicated a question as we might think. Our friends are those who stand with us in our times of need. Our friends are those upon whom we can rely when we are less than popular at any given moment. Our friends are those with whom we share common values, common purposes and a shared view of the world.

By these standards, it should be apparent to every American that we have only one true friend in the Middle East. It is not Syria. It is not Iran. Happy birthday, Israel, our friend in spirit and our truest ally!

**Ed. Note:** *April 24, 2007 was the 59th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.*

*Rabbi Jeret is the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Ner Tamid in Rancho Palos Verdes. Rabbi Jeret will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 28 & June 4.*

### **Straight Talk Reporter**

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# Ken Walker At 80 is Still Going Strong



**Ken Walker is President/CEO of Farmers & Merchants Bank.**

Kenneth Walker, third generation and life-long Long Beach advocate, and CEO and President of Farmers & Merchants Bank (F&M), turned 80 years old on April 17, 2007.

Kenneth was born in Long Beach in 1927 at Seaside Hospital. He attended Los Cerritos Elementary School, Washington Jr. High and Poly High School.

At the request of his grandfather and F&M founder, C. J. Walker, Ken began working at F&M at age eleven as the elevator operator and groundskeeper of the Long Beach headquarters. He later studied finance, accounting and economics at USC after serving in the U.S. Navy. Following his military service, Kenneth married and returned to work at F&M as a teller in 1948, moonlighting as a machine shop operator after hours and a farmer in Arizona on the weekends. In the ensuing years, he worked in almost every conceivable banking capacity at F&M until becoming its executive vice president in 1965. Kenneth succeeded his father, Gus Walker, as president, in 1979. He remains involved in various key aspects of the business, including oversight of investments, loans and personnel matters.

Ken has been a Long Beach advocate and humanitarian for over 60 years, actively serving on boards and committees of such organizations as the Assistance League of Long Beach, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, YMCA of Greater

Long Beach and the National Conference for Community & Justice. He and his wife Nancy were honored last year with the **YMCA Family Life Award** for their faithful activity with local groups in the Long Beach community.

Kenneth and Nancy reside in Buena Park. They have 4 grown children, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Farmers & Merchants Bank was founded in Long Beach in 1907 by C.J. Walker. **F&M is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.** The bank currently has a staff of nearly 600 employees throughout its 22 locations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. In addition to being a full-service bank, F&M specializes in commercial and small business banking along with various business loan programs.



F&M continues to be one of the strongest banks in the country as measured by a variety of industry standards. For instance, F&M return-on-assets ratio is double the California average and significantly exceeds the nation's largest banks. Beyond the balance sheet, F&M Bank has a long history of philanthropic and charitable involvement with local organizations such as the YMCA, the Crystal Cathedral and the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center Foundation.

*Ken Walker will be our guest on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 28 & June 4.*

## Long Beach Armada To Open Home Season June 13



**David Wellenzohn is President/General Manager of the Long Beach Armada.**

Dave's extensive sports experience includes Manager and Assistant Director of Stadium Operations for the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons during three seasons, Manager of Baseball Operations for the Double-A Wichita Wranglers, and General Manager of the Single-A Jamestown Jammers for five years. In addition, he was Director of Stadium Operations for both the Florida Marlins and Miami Dolphins at Joe Robbie Stadium, and for two years was the Baseball Site Manager for the **1996 Atlanta Olympics** at Fulton County Stadium. Dave has also worked as a political consultant with the Buffalo Common Council, and for three years with the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.



The Armada will open their Home Season on June 13 at Blair Field. **For ticket information call (562) 434-7161.**

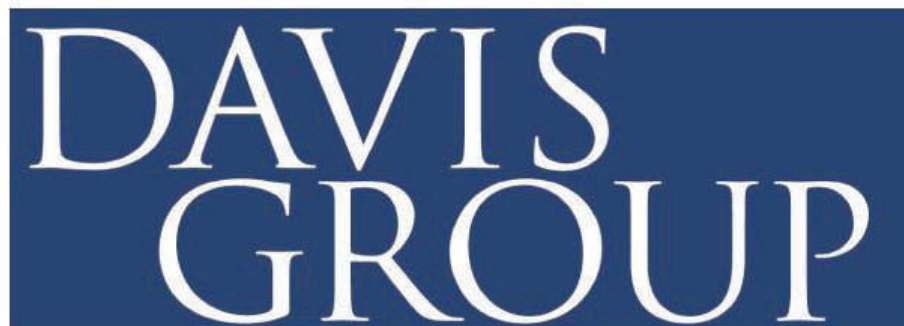
**Jay Klein is Assistant General Manager of the Long Beach Armada**



Jay graduated from Ohio University in 1998 with a BA and a BS. While in college, he founded and owned his own sales and marketing company which employed 71 people. After college, Jay worked as a corporate account executive with a Fortune 500 company in Chicago. In 2003 Jay graduated from the **University of Oregon School of Law**, finishing in the top third of his class. After law school Jay worked for several large California law firms as an environmental attorney focusing on endangered species, water issues and contract resolution. But his passion for baseball brought Jay to the Long Beach Armada. Now in his second year with the Armada, Jay handles group sales, season tickets sales, fundraising programs and various sponsorships.

*David Wellenzohn and Jay Klein will be our guests on the Straight Talk Show airing the weeks of May 28 & June 4.*

*Thank you  
for all you do for  
the Community*



**Public Affairs, Public Relations and Political Consulting**



# Straight Talk Around Town



Art Levine, Robin and the Renaissance Pleasure Faire's "Sir Francis Drake" enjoy Straight Talk Night at Trani's Restaurant.



Grand Prix Association President/CEO Jim Michaelian at Press Day.



Long Beach Grand Prix Founder Chris Pook receives his star on the Long Beach Motorsports Walk of Fame from Mayor Bob Foster.



Tecate Chicas and Committee of 300 President-elect Tom Jordan enjoy the hospitality of the Paddock Club.



Lance Corporal Robert Bukanan, USMC and Lance Corporal Nathan Hiemstra, USMC pictured happily in the company of two young ladies at the Paddock Club.



Keesal, Young & Logan partner Terry Ross greets Art Levine and Lt. General Michael Hamel, USAF at the start of KY&L's great Grand Prix Party.



Famed sportscaster Steve Hartman and daughter Paris at the race.



Legendary movie director George Lucas pictured with young admirers prior to the Toyota Pro-Celebrity Race.