



John Muir Charter School **GRIT** Pomona CCC

California Conservation Corps—Pomona Satellite

Governor Jerry Brown

Robert Walker; Features



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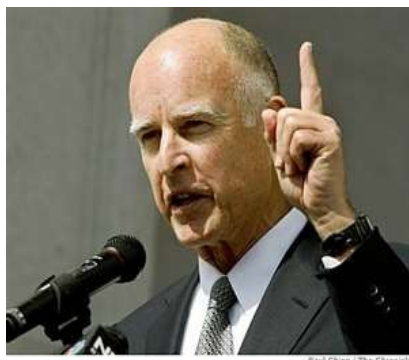
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Features/Commentary

What comes to your mind when you hear the name Jerry Brown? Whether it's good or bad, he has done a lot of positive things for our state and the CCC. Jerry Brown was born April 7, 1938 in San Francisco, California. He graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1955. In 1956, he attended Sacred Heart Novitiate, which is a Jesuit semi-



nary. He was planning on becoming a Catholic priest. Brown however left the seminary and decided to attend the University of California Berkeley, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Classics in 1961. He also went to Yale Law School and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1964.

After his departure from law school, Brown got a job as a law clerk for the Supreme Court of California. During his first term of California's Governor, he was considered among many to be a fiscal conservative. In latent terms, he declined many "perks" that were offered at the time to past Governors. For example, instead of riding in a limousine to his destinations, he drove in his personal vehicle—a Plymouth Satellite Sedan. As governor he was also offered a newly built governors home, to again declining the offer and renting an apartment in downtown Sacramento. During his eight year term, he had a strong interest in environmental issues. He worked on a lot of issues that dealt with different companies. He reorganized the California Arts Council, raising their funding by 1300 percent. He also selected more women and minorities to the council than any other governor at the time. Being against the death penalty, Brown vetoed it as Governor which in 1977 it was overrode. Fast forwarding to his second term, he was elected Governor on November 7, 1978. During his second turn, he offered a very neat and very useful idea. To send out a satellite to outer space, and in tern it would provide emergency communications to the state. Brown decided not to run for a third term, but instead sought out the position United States Senate, he sadly lost to then San Diego mayor Pete Wilson.

Governor Brown cont. from pg1

He lost by a mere 7%. Upon his defeat, he decided to travel to Japan to study Buddhism. Studying with Christian/Zen practitioner Hugo Enomiya-Lassalle under Yamada Koun-roshi, he learned that politics is based on illusions and he also came out of his comfort zone, and into something he wasn't familiar with which in turn taught him how to be an even better politician. 1933 was when the idea of the civilian conservation corps came into play. Originally the corps was for males only. The Great Depression was the answer President Franklin D. Roosevelt had to battle this disaster at the time. During the time of the civilian corps, the members performed trail building, historic restoration, tree planting and also national parks. Brown took notice of how well the civilian corps worked, so on July 7, 1976 the California Conservation Corps was created. It was based off the basic structure of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and still is to this day. Governor at the time George Deukmejian and Director Bud Sheble made the CCC a permanent department in the Resources Agency of the state of California. Over 75,000 young men and women have put in over 47 million hours of natural resources work, and 5.5 million hours of emergency work. The CCC is the oldest and largest Conservation Corps in the world. There are over 11 service districts and over 40 satellites in the CCC, serving on average of 2,390 corps members. Thanks to Jerry Brown, former President Franklin D. Roosevelt and many others, the CCC is still very functional and still helps provide members with skills, a paycheck and even discipline to be properly prepared for the future.

Identify the person here and their current position in the CCC; win an Honorable Mention in next month's GRIT



Former CCC Director B.T. Collins, left, joins Gov. Jerry Brown and CCC Director Jack Dugan in 1982

(Photo and caption from the CCC website.)

LOST and FOUND



Bucket Of The Month

JMCS/CCC GRIT

Contribution by Breanna Dawson

Jr Pompa has been a part of the CCC for a year and 2 months. During his time here, he has put in a great deal of hard work, and everyone here knows him for being a “joker” but we also know him as a great worker. As soon as Jr heard that we were doing a “Bucket of the month” he asked if we would use his car. The vehicle really doesn’t look like a bucket, but it sounds like one! When he first turns the vehicle on, the car makes a strange noise. The noise consists of a lot of rattling and ticking. Jr first heard about the car from his dad’s friend, so he went to the location and purchased the car for 200 dollars. He got it for pretty cheap, mainly because of all the motor problems it had. For example, the radiator is/was shot, the A/C was shot, and the motor would overheat a lot while driving. Also the windows didn’t roll down, so he would have to roll down the windows when he wanted them down and roll them back up all by hand, and when I say hand I mean physically move the window down without the lever. You can imagine how annoying that could be. Jr, being the good sport he is, didn’t complain though. He was used to taking the bus, and getting rides from friends, so he was happy he had something to get him from point A to point B. After driving it for a while, the motor blew so he had to get a motor rebuild. It set him back 300 dollars. Jr is a huge music fan, so I asked him what he does for music since his stereo is broken in the car. His response was and I quote “I bring an old boom box from home” “you gotta do what you gotta do.” The “hoopdie” as he and his friends call it also has problems with the tires. The back two have nails in the tires, and the passenger rear has two nails in the same tire. He has to fill the tires up with air every time he wants to drive the car, otherwise the tires will go flat. During the summer, his car tends to overheat frequently, and in order for the car to run he has to turn the heater on. Turning the heater on in a vehicle when it has overheating problems tends to keep the motor a lot cooler believe it or not. If the motor doesn’t stay cool, it could blow the motor like it did before. I asked Jr, with the summer coming up just around the corner, what will you be doing? His response “buy a portable mini fan” like I said he is a good sport. We just learned that the 1991 Honda accord aka “hoopdie” has recently left us. This past Friday Jr was driving it and the motor blew. AGAIN. We are sad, and I know Jr isn’t happy about riding the bus again either. He has to now ride the bus again, and this sad little guy has a nickname of his own. “Bus rider” as his friends now call him. He plans to save money and purchase a new car, hopefully one that has A/C and one that doesn’t have so many mechanical issues. We hope that this issue doesn’t curse the future bucket’s of the month.



SAFETY CORNER

Contributed by Robert Walker

JMCS/CCC GRIT

Hello fellow Corps members. My name is Robert Walker, and I am three months out of C.O.M.E.T. During my short time here, I have come to see a lot of members not do the tasks we are given every Monday.. Yes Class A's. Many members don't shine their boots, or have their creases, and even aren't prepared for the day with their items to safely and efficiently do their job. I have noticed it's not that the members don't know how to do creases, and bring their hard hats, it's more along the lines of them not doing it simply because they don't have "time". Corps members don't realize, following these rules helps you in many ways. It helps you develop discipline, and also shows you are responsible. The majority of the people here I speak to wish to move up in the program, and they normally try going from a Red Hat to a Yellow Hat. It's a very obtainable goal, but what Corps members don't understand is, we need to follow directions and show that we are ready to progress our skills further, and it all starts by coming prepared for the start of the new work week. So I have come up with a few ideas and suggestions for members to try in order to save you some trouble and time. Let's start off with the boots. Once you get home from Thursday to start off your weekend, just go straight to your water hose, hose off your boots get all the dirt and mud off of them, and let them air dry for an hour. Then go back and quickly shine them, shinning both boots with Kiwi doesn't take long, generally I take no more then fifteen minutes in total. Throw them by your door, or in your vehicle so you don't forget them. Next we have our Class A shirt. What most people don't know is, you can have your military creases sown on, I would do this to a long sleeve, that way if we have a special event of some sort, you have your Class A and you have the long sleeve which is needed for special events. When it comes to the C's we tend to work in a lot of dangerous and sometimes very different from what we are use to situations. Typically we work a lot with Cal-Trans which puts us on freeways, or on streets. Both are very dangerous, especially if you don't wear your safety vests. Also working near traffic, we need to work FACING traffic so we can occasionally look up to make sure no vehicles are coming to the direction we are working at. Also, we need to focus on work, and less on talking and messing around. We need to aim to getting the work done accurately and having it done as fast as possible so we can get out of harms way. Now let's move to trail work. Typically we do a lot of trail work as well, and that normally has us in remote areas where wild life is heavily populated. There are insects and animals such as bears tics, and even bobcats and snakes! All can be very dangerous, but I have noticed a lot of Corps members take great interest in the wild life. We need to remember that we are in their territory and we need to focus on getting our job done. Getting close to the wildlife can be very life threatening even if you think you are far enough from them. Wildlife is exactly that...Wild and un-domesticated which in other words, means they are not use to humans and might consider us a threat to their life, and on instincts they can attack. Working at the C's can be very fun and be a very great life changing experience, so while working here come prepared for work, and stay safe. The last thing anyone wants is for us to get hurt from things that could have been avoided.

This photo is a bit on the extreme side, but still it shows someone not being aware of their surroundings. Always pay attention and stay focused of what's going on around you.

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UNDERGROUND OVERVIEW

Music Review by Noel Cachua

JMCS/CCC GRIT

“Music – the art and science of combining local or instrumental sounds or tones in rhythm, harmony, and ranging melody;” according to Webster’s dictionary. Now let me tell you Corps members what the definition of music means as an artist. I consider myself as an artist because I rap and I am trying to put together a group. I don’t have any big dreams of becoming some famous rapper in the main stream industry as many people do. I basically just do it to spread my knowledge to the world. Some might define music as a source of simple entertainment, but it is more complex than that. I believe the concept of music is to honestly express one self, to summon any thought idea, and even to express feelings. Music is a way of life to some and it may be a gateway of escape from reality momentarily. An individual might have a real hard day and for them to relieve the stress, they might put on some type of music that will enlighten their mood. Music can have a huge impact and influence in people’s lives, like some may use music as a form of motivation. It can be for lifting weights, or just working out in general. Now that I have defined music, allow me to take a moment to tell you about my distinctive taste of music and why I am a complete underground head. I am not with the whole “commercial net” but I do enjoy hip-hop not hip pop. I believe rap has two branches hip hop and hip pop. Mainstream rappers write lyrics to fit the generation’s trend. It’s more about the money in that field in my opinion. Making songs about drinking and having fancy vehicles and chains, that’s all inconsequential. Artists in the underground have more freedom and express their opinions on what’s currently happening with sometimes politics, and a lot about the government. Mainstream hip hop seems to just have lyrics about irrelevant junk that talks about what the rapper has in their possession, or what they get a lot of. The underground rappers don’t mind if they don’t sell as many albums as other rappers, they really aim for speaking their minds through their lyrics, and for us as listeners to decipher their messages and to just enjoy the originality that they produce. I prefer underground rap more than anything else. There are a lot of talented underground rappers out there, like Immortal Technique, Demi God, and one of my favorites the Jedi Mind Tricks and Wutang Clan. This is just a small list too; there are a lot of them out there. Check these artists out, if you would like to know more I will be happy to tell you more underground rappers. I’m outchos.

To the right is one of the best albums Jedi Mind Tricks has put out in my opinion. If you want to check them out, I suggest you get this album



State Funding; Corrections v Education

Commentary by Latanja Williams

JMCS/CCC GRIT

The United States budget for state prisons surpasses the amount of funding required to be spent on education. This passage opposes the controversy between the state budget and the affect on society. For the past four years California's budget has not been sufficient. As a result many transitions had to be made and the funding for education decreased. In 2008-09 Arnold Schwarzenegger reduced funds for California School districts by 4.4 billion. More than 82.9% of statewide spending for schools goes to the pay for the salaries and benefits of teachers. Other staff salaries for classroom teachers accounted for 39.5% of school expenditures. Salaries for other school staff including counselors, principals, and secretaries ac-



counted for 24.4%. Also employee benefits including, retirement and health benefits accounted for 19.0% of the budget for education. The minimum proposition 98 funding requirements is determined by one of three tests, set forth in the constitution by 5 major factors which are; general fund revenues, state population, personal income, local property taxes, and K-12 average daily attendance. Currently the budget for education, on average, is about \$54 million, which is much less compared to the budget for Corrections and Rehabilitation. The governor's budget proposed \$9.1 billion for general funds and 61,927 positions for state opera-

tions and local assistance programs in 2011-12 for correction operations. In addition the administration is including an ongoing augmentation of \$395.2 million within the CDCR's budget to correct previous budget shortfalls. It has been said, that if the budget for Corrections and Rehabilitation was cut then more money could be reinstated to California District Schools. Statistics have shown that approximately 85% of Americans agree with this idea. As a proposal investing more money into education and less to the Department of Corrections it is more than likely to have the percentage of education funds increase, while over time this may have the effect of decreasing our prisons already burgeoning population. K-12 Education has taken a bigger percentage "hit" than any other budget category in the last few years. Contrasting the importance of education to correction operations, Schooling always takes the lead. Children will be correlated with the quality of our lives in the future.

