

# The Growl -- November 1999



## *Duty*

**Prof. Cynthia S. Becerra**

The past few days have been full of somber yet meaningful events that, I believe, are connected with the upcoming national holiday. First, our area has seen the passing of a great community leader, Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna, Jr. His presence in city politics has been a beacon to many Hispanics seeking models for their young children. I often have pointed out to my growing sons Serna's profound sense of duty and commitment to his community, stressing to them the powerful role that Hispanic leaders now play and will continue to play in the near future in California governance. Of course, they know that, once said, I will somehow connect my statements to the importance of a college education. Serna, a graduate of CSU, Sacramento, provided a living example of what can be accomplished in our community, in our state, in our nation, no matter what the color of one's skin or economic status. The second event that has clarified my thoughts is the most recent example of a hate crime--the arson fire of the Church of Presentation. According to a Stockton *Record* article, the fire was probably started at the altar of this well-attended Catholic church. Of course, church members and school children of the parochial grammar school are in shock and justifiably horrified that someone would do this to their house of worship. Many of the parishioners emphasized, as many past victims of such atrocities have, that this act of violence only solidified their faith, not diminished it, as they vowed to rebuild their church.

In both events, I have found a common denominator--one that leads me to why we, as Americans, should celebrate Veterans' Day as it should be celebrated, not with a day at the Mall or local theater, but as a day of remembrance for all who have put their lives on hold and on the line for all of us so that we might be able to pursue our dreams, whatever they may be, and to worship our God, whomever he might be named, in relative peace. Born in 1939 just before the onset of World War II (1940-1947), Mayor Serna, his generation, and generations to follow have witnessed the participation of almost 37 million men and women in the service of our country. Of those 37 million more than half a million perished in serving in battle, for many their American dreams were vanquished by an enemy bullet or missile, their families' hope for them evaporating into a mist of memories.

But Veterans' Day, unlike Memorial Day, is a day set aside to recognize all veterans, both living and dead, for the sacrifices they have made so that we may enjoy our freedom, our liberty, our pursuit of happiness. For example, World War II included the largest number of service men and women, over 16 million participants, and of those, almost 6 million are alive to tell us if Steven Spielberg's latest movie is accurate. In my family, two of my favorite men have had to bear arms in foreign lands in service to our country. I have never heard either of them say that he talked about political ideology or even personal freedom in the fox holes or machine-gun bunkers guarding the perimeter. What they have often said probably resonates through most American households when the one-time warrior speaks out about an arduous time: "I just covered my back and my buddy's," or even something a bit more colorful. In the Korean Conflict (1950-1955), one of the bloodiest in American history, my father occasionally speaks of his buddy whom he helped when he was wounded and how his buddy returned the favor on a mine- and missile-pocked battlefield on October 26, 1951. On that day, my father called out as blood blinded his eyes and pain shot through his head and legs; his call for help was answered by Corporal Robert Hetrick, who stayed with him until he was evacuated out of the combat zone to a MASH unit for medical care. Seriously wounded, he recovered in a Tokyo hospital and, like so many, returned to active duty. Of the 6,807,000 men and women who served in the Korean Conflict, there are over four million Korean veterans living today.

And, although the Vietnam War (1964-1975) is clouded with controversy, many of us have close family members, like a brother or sister, an uncle or aunt, a father or mother or, in my case, a spouse who participated in a difficult war that reverberated conflict both there and at home. Of the 9,200,000 participants, over eight million are living Vietnam veterans who gave up their late teenage years of cars, college, and beer parties for the rice fields of a small yet divided nation. Some gave up jobs and others put their dreams on hold, not only because their draft board said so but also because they felt that something larger than themselves was worth believing in. However innocent or naïve we were, as a nation, we asked them to serve and protect the life that we enjoyed. Of course, looking back, hindsight being 20-20, we now think that perhaps they shouldn't have gone, but then our country--we--didn't give them much of an option. They were drafted as the millions before them had been and probably thought--like the almost 30 million of American soldiers before them--that it was their duty.

So, on Thursday, November 11, let us take a few moments of silence in remembrance of the veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we might pursue our American dream in all its colors and our right to worship in all of our Houses, and then let us turn to those more than 20 million living veterans of American wars--from World War I to the Persian Gulf War--and give them thanks for their commitment to duty.

### ***FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER SERVICES:***

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF TRACY IS OFFERING FEMALE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR AWARDS PROGRAM FOR THE ***WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARD*** .

THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IS A \$500 CHECK FOR TUITION AND BOOKS. THE APPLICATION AND REFERENCES NEED TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED **BY DECEMBER 15, 1999**.



## ***MEET YOUR TEACHER***

*"Look for the Extraordinary in the Ordinary"*

Linda Rahmoller, Instructor in Office Administration

**Linda Rahmoller obtained her AA degree from Concordia College in Portland, Oregon. She also attended the University of Missouri in Kansas City and St. Louis and finally earned her BS from the University of San Francisco. Almost fifteen years ago she joined Humphreys College as an instructor.**

*"After several years of shoveling snow, witnessing tornadoes, and experiencing wilting humidity in Missouri, Minnesota, and Kansas, my husband and I decided to make the move to the land of sunshine, California. The move afforded me the opportunity to complete my undergraduate schooling, which I had been doing on a part-time basis at the University of Missouri. After completing my degree, and based on my work experience background as an administrative support specialist at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, I was hired by Humphreys College in January of 1985. Mrs. Rowena Walker and the dean interviewed me, and as they say, 'the rest is history.' I teach keyboarding, software applications, procedural courses, professional development, records management, and whatever else my supervisor requests me to do."*

**You are known as one of the most student-oriented instructors.**

*"It is a pleasure to become acquainted with students, some of whom you have the privilege of teaching for several courses. With the small class sizes you develop relationships with your students that would not be possible in larger institutions. It is especially gratifying to see these students after they have successfully completed their degrees and are established in their careers. My job provides me with a tremendous amount of professional satisfaction as well as opportunities for personal and professional growth. In addition, I enjoy interacting with my colleagues, many of whom I have known for years."*

**Based on your Humphreys College experience, who would be, in your opinion, an ideal student?**

*"The student who is able to persevere no matter what struggles and obstacles he or she encounters, and who likes to be challenged academically. It is also gratifying to see a person who initially only wanted to come for a certificate but decided, after enrolling in school, to pursue an additional education for both personal and professional growth. The student population at Humphreys faces many challenges; many are returning to school, some have families as well as full-time jobs and careers. As an instructor I appreciate their ability to juggle all of the hats they wear."*

**What do you like to do in your leisure time? Do you have any hobbies?**

*"I love to travel. Over the quarter break my husband and I visited the Colorado Plateau and enjoyed several National Parks including Zion, Bryce, Cedar Breaks, Canyonlands, Mesa Verde, Arches, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The scenery was spectacular with the massive multi-colored vertical cliffs, graceful arches, and deep canyon landscapes. The Quaking Aspen were also changing to their brilliant gold colors. We particularly enjoyed hiking in the parks. It is truly a great opportunity to see the grandeur and wonder of the scenery. In addition, I love to work in my yard and flowerbeds."*

**Lately, we have heard about your bicycling efforts.**

*"Yes, I have started cycling. My next goal is to be able to ride with Ms. Bauermeister, and this time, keep up with her!"*

**What is your favorite book, movie, TV show?**

*"I am a real movie buff. Two good movies that I have seen lately include American Beauty and Bringing out the Dead. Two recent video rentals are Affliction and American History X. All of these movies are contemporary dramas that portray the "angst" of our human existence. If you like movies that make you leave the theater smiling and happy because all of the conflicts were resolved, and everyone is happy, these four choices would be inappropriate. On the other hand, if you like to ponder the human condition, and draw your own conclusions, these would be great recommendations."*

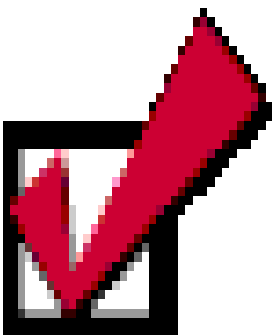
**Would you be willing to share with the readers of *The Growl* your life credo?**

*"Look for the extraordinary in the ordinary.*

*Don't sweat the small stuff.*

*Learn to live in the present moment because life is what is happening while you are busy making other plans."*

**~Stanislav Perkner**



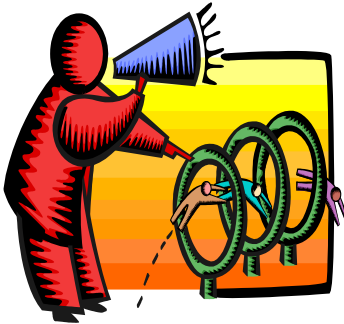
***Voter Registration Materials Available***

Lance Hall, Registrar

Want your say in issues that affect you or your family? Vote! Not registered? Humphreys College now offers registration materials to its students, faculty, and staff. Distribution boxes are now located in the front office, Library, and West Campus vending area. For more information on voting, visit the Secretary of State website at [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

## ***Reporting On Court Reporting***

Bruce Bodine, Coordinator of Court Reporting



Over the past several years, the court reporting department of Humphreys College has certified a number of its students to sit for the CSR Examination offered by the Court Reporters Board of the State of California. The exam is administered biannually, once in May and once in November.

Since our students have had great success attaining their goal of participating in the exam and becoming certified shorthand reporters, our enrollment in the top speed classes has dwindled. However, one of our students has qualified to sit for the exam, which is being offered on November 12 and 13 in Los Angeles.

This two-day exam consists of a lengthy written portion and a skills portion on the steno machine. Each student listens to live, four-voice dictation at 200 words per minute for ten minutes and then transcribes the dictation material for grading. The time limit for transcribing is three hours and ten minutes. This may seem like too much time for transcribing dictation that lasted only ten minutes. However, when completed, each student will have a document of approximately a dozen pages.

In addition to our students' success in becoming reporters, we have had six students complete academic requirements for their bachelor's degree. This is a very impressive accomplishment. Not only have these students reached the skill level necessary to become a court reporter, they have also persevered in their academic pursuits and received the bachelor's degree offered by Humphreys College in realtime captioning and reporting. To my knowledge, no other school in California offers a fully accredited bachelor's degree in court reporting.

To our student and all students going to take the test in November, we in the court reporting department and all at Humphreys College wish them all the best during the upcoming examination toward their goal of becoming certified shorthand reporters.



### ***Student Council Members***

You will be happy to know that some brave and very capable students have volunteered to form the Humphreys College Student Council for the next academic year. The people and their respective offices are as follows: Gerald Berger, President; Kim Angelique, Vice-President; Marisa Sanchez, Treasurer; Julie Holbo, Secretary; and Melody Calzado and Kris Hedberg as Student Representatives. With the support of no small number of other students, they begin their duties running by planning Christmas activities to support women and children at Stockton's Dawn House. Give these council members your full support and congratulations.



## *Christmas Giving*

The Humphreys College Student Council is already working hard to raise funds and provide gifts and clothing to the women and children at the Dawn House, a place of retreat for those suffering from an abusive spouse. We're hoping to get donations from local businesses to raise money through a raffle, though direct donations of toys and clothing would also be welcome. Any support from you would be very welcome. You will also see big red barrels on campus just waiting for you to donate canned food to the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton. Next time you go to the store, pick up a few extra cans of something to assure a happier Christmas for those less fortunate in our community. For more information on any of these items, contact Student Council members or Prof. Chabot at 478-0800.