

READER

SAN DIEGO'S MOST PECULIAR WEEKLY MARCH 21 TO MARCH 27

BEHIND THE THRONE

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(ED: This is the first in a two-part series on San Diego political aides. Part Two will feature Larry Thomas, press secretary to Mayor Wilson.)

—John Martin—

Jim Bernstein doesn't really belong in San Diego politics. Though he may be one of the most influential people in the working level of local government, he just doesn't come out of the right mold. Jewish parents, New York, Harvard, Cornell Medical School, General Surgeon at University Hospital in San Diego. Assistant to Dr. Jonas Salk. But now, as County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack Walsh's "executive assistant," he's the guy who calls up any one of a lot of County administrators and gives the conversation a crucial tone with the words "This is Jim Bernstein calling."

Bernstein says he met Walsh when Walsh was running for mayor back in 1971. "This guy across the street was throwing a cocktail party for Walsh, and I went over." But Bernstein didn't really get to know Walsh until Bernstein got an alluring job offer from back East last year, February 1973, and he called Walsh up to ask what he should do. Why did he call Walsh? Who would call his county supervisor for career counseling? "That just shows your ignorance. Lots of people call office-holders for personal advice." Well, at least Bernstein has good Jewish directness. Maybe that's what attracted Walsh to him. The advice Walsh gave Bernstein was to come to work for him for a year as his assistant.

"It's funny. I never was that political before. But working with Jack on the Board of Supervisors has politicized me." Bernstein says he was hired as "his own man" and that "he and Jack" work as equals. He claims that he doesn't know of any other political co-workers who are as close. "We share the same goals. We disagree on very few things. We're both equally critical of bureaucracy." Jack is more patient than I am but that's because he's been in office a lot longer. I need him, he needs me."

The workday rites begin every morning with Bernstein driving down from his La Jolla home on Whitefield Place to Jack Walsh's Point Loma home on Chatsworth and picking Walsh up for an evening game of racquetball at the Kona Kai Club at 6:45 a.m. Bernstein goes through Walsh's mail and pulls out "The important things." (As best as we, Bernstein knows, though the legislative agenda and

writes comments in the margin like "our proposal — important?" or draws an arrow next to it which means to turn back to supplemental information at the back of the agenda. "I have to do this, just so he can get through the bureaucratic bullshit."

It's this power, or as Bernstein puts it, "the access," that makes politics important. He agrees that government can't do a lot of things, that bureaucracy is sometimes just too unmanageable. And thus he throws any kind of consistent liberal or quasi-socialist philosophy to the wind. "That's your hang-up!" He points to John. Well, a man who has been patiently waiting in the corner of the office for an appointment with Walsh.

"He's here because we're putting together a minority investment corporation. There we're not to use private enterprise. The important thing is to get the power, or access, excites Bernstein

to the point where he's flipping through pages, programs, and proposals, and showing me how much can "get done."

Power also worries Bernstein, understandably so. Walsh, even though he is Board Chairman, has been on the losing side of a predominant 3-2 split on the Board of Supervisors since January of last year when the new slate of Supervisors took office. Bernstein speaks of the opposition as exerting "negative power." "Negative power is the most common around here. You just sit back and oppose things like Supervisor Conde does and it's easy. There's no risk in opposing things, finding fault with things." Bernstein's and Walsh's solution is "to keep proposing things" and "to be as open as possible."

Was it the play of power that pulled Bernstein away from his medical career? He insists not. He

says that he knows that people like his parents are shocked by what he's done. They've accused him of being unfaithful ("what happened to our son the surgeon?"), but Bernstein attacks the whole idea of "straight-line careers" like medicine. He thinks the radical change in direction is good for him. He wanted to do more than he could do in medicine, he says. Even though he is an atheist, he claims he is strongly altruistic. His experiences during the summers of his medical school years — one summer in Peru, one summer in India — and his internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York treating patients from the Bowers probably influenced him most. "Especially India — the values placed on the non-material. Though I was raised very goal-oriented, I've seen a lot of people who have everything they want and aren't satisfied. For example, in Berkeley, a lot of professors are like this."



Richard Misso

The Copley Press is an outrage. It's the anasthesia of the people.

chipped in last year to pay for plane tickets, bringing refugees from Allende's Chile to San Diego. Ironically, Bernstein admits to living beyond his \$17,000-a-year salary as executive assistant and says he doesn't know what he'll do. He pulls out a letter offering him a \$50,000 salary in medicine, and confides that the offer is very tempting, given his predicament. But he doesn't think his high tastes are that ironic. "You know, in India, in the East, they place a high value on beauty, on the aesthetic. To have beautiful things you have to have money."

A few weeks earlier, Supervisor Walsh had held a party at his home for "working members" of the press and someone there summed up the gathering's significance by saying that Jack Walsh was probably the only one in San Diego politics who would draw a crowd like the one he did. There was Narda Trout from the L.A. Times, Herb Lockwood from the Transcript, people from the Reader, the Edition, the Chula Vista Star News, and assorted television, radio, and Union Tribune representatives. "Can you imagine Lou Conde bringing these people here?" I was told. How do you massage the press like this? "We're very open," Bernstein says for the umpteenth time. "We talk with the Union Tribune reporters every day. They feel free to come and rap with us. The people from the U-T who are assigned here are young and liberal. They have major hostilities toward the editorial desk there. We tell them as honestly and completely as we can what we're doing, they write it up, and if it gets mangled somewhere, it's usually at the editorial desk." And then Bernstein really gets going. "The Copley Press is an outrage. It's the anasthesia of the people. How do you explain it? Well, if you've read the Pentagon Papers or Halberstam's book, you know that General Krulak falsified all those reports from Vietnam. What can you expect when he runs the organization?"

On the whole, there doesn't seem to be that much acrimony in Bernstein's attitude about his job. He's caustic, sure. But that seems to be more a part of his personality. And it fits in pretty well with the general excitement he seems to feel about the job. Now maybe the excitement tells you something about his optimism. Medicine was too small a concern for Jim Bernstein, he's got more to offer the world than dexterity with needle and forceps. It might also tell you that he sees the job as just a first step in a short climb to greater power the seemed especially proud of some of the things he had written on energy conversation for the New Coalition that were incorporated into a bill before the U.S. Senate. But the excitement could also tell you that Bernstein's selflessness is genuine; that he is sincere when he says "We want excellence, it's as rare in politics as in life."

EVENTS

SPORTS

BASEBALL: Aztecs vs. U. of Washington, Thursday, March 21, 11:00 a.m. vs. U. of Santa Clara, Friday, March 22, 3:00 p.m. vs. U. of Santa Clara, Saturday, March 23, 3:00 p.m. vs. U. of Washington, Monday, March 25, 12:00 noon (double-header), vs. U. of Washington, Tuesday, March 26, 3:00 p.m. vs. U.C. Berkeley, Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. At Smith Field, S.D. State, 286-6947.

TRACK: S.D. City College vs. U.C. Riverside, Balboa Stadium, Friday, March 22, 5:00 p.m. 234-8451.

HOCKEY: Gulls vs. Portland, Sports Arena, Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m. 224-4176.

BOXING: Norton-Forman fight on Closed Circuit television, S.D. Sports Arena, Monday, March 25, 224-4176.

HOCKEY: Gulls vs. Portland, S.D. Sports Arena, Tuesday, March 26, 8 p.m. 224-4176.

BASKETBALL: Conquistadors vs. Kentucky Colonels, Golden Hall, Convention and Performing Arts Center, Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. 238-6510.

LECTURES AND TALKS

FASTING: The Therapeutic Approach to Disease, a lecture by Dr. John Luby, D.C. S.D. Federal Savings and Loan, La Jolla, Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. 274-2462.

CONTINENTAL DRIFT: Evolution and Diversity, a lecture by paleontologist Edwin Colbert, Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, Wednesday, March 27, 8:00 p.m. 232-3821.

TRAVELING BY ROAD IN BAIA, a lecture by Howard Gulick, co-author of "Lower California Handbook," Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, Tuesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. 232-3821.

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

COILED POTTERY, with Judy Pereno, part of Ethnic Craft Workshop series, S.D. Museum of Man, Balboa Park, Thursday, March 14, 239-2001.

WELDED STEEL, brass and iron sculpture, by Dale Watkins, painting by Susan Macdonald, Artists' Co-operative Gallery, Through March 26, 296-0200.

ALL ABOUT KIDS, works for and about children (children's furniture, toys, puppets, marionettes, etc.), Mary Hanks Creative Arts Co-op, 3350 E. Canon Blvd., Through April 27, 299-2647.

ARTISTS' EQUITY SHOW, including sculpture by Shirley Light, man, oils by Jean Bravery, watercolors by Robert Perine, mixed media by Eleanor Blangsted, graphics by Lenore Simon, and macramé by Jackie Anderson, Wells Fargo Bank, La Jolla, Through May 3.



STEPHEN WELLS, photographs, Unicorn Theatre Lobby, Through April 11.

MINIMALIST Robert Mangold, recent paintings and drawings, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, March 23 through May 12, 434-0153.

20TH CENTURY EUROPEAN SCULPTURE: Rodin, Renoir, Miro, Gonzalez, Derrin, Bourdelle, and Bonnard, Jack Glenn Gallery, 424 Fashion Valley, March 8 through April 20, 291-5970.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY ARTISTS of America, including works by Maurice Braun, C.A. Fries, and Alfred Mitchell, Orr's Gallery, 234-4765, Through March.

POTTERS GUILD SHOW, juried potters show with live weekend demonstrations, S.D. Museum of Man, Through March, 239-2201.

WHISTLES AND BEADS: in ceramics, with Judy Pereno, an Ethnic Craft Workshop, S.D. Museum of Man, Balboa Park, Thursday, March 21, 239-2001.

PAINTINGS AND ASSEMBLAGES by Reese Shaw, Triad Gallery, Through March 26, 299-6545.

ARTIFACTS from Melanesia and Polynesia: tapa cloth from Fiji, baskets and combs from the Solomon Islands, carvings, plectrums and drums from Timor, Hawaii, International Center, Matthews Gallery, UCSD, Through March, 453-9200, ext. 1947.

COSTLESS IMPORTS

AH!... WHAT SHE SHELLS

SHELL NECKLACES

FROM THE SEA
COWRIE SHELLS
SNAILS...
STRUNG
INTO LONG
LOVELY
STRANDS,

FROM 99¢

HANG A SPRING GARDEN IN YOUR KITCHEN!

COLLAPSIBLE WIRE BASKETS FOR DRYING OR HANG ABOVE THE KITCHEN SINK TO DRAIN VEGETABLES AFTER WASHING.

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A WHOLE MENAGERIE OF WHIMSICAL PAINTED PETS... POTTED WITH NEW SPRING FERNS.

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SAN DIEGO — BETWEEN ROUTE 5 AND PACIFIC HWY 161, TAKE THE WASHINGTON ST. TURN-OFF 299-0100

LA MESA — CENTER AT JACKSON, GROSSMONT CENTER 460-6760

LA JOLLA — 1152 PROSPECT ST. 459-3671

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW, featuring the work of Phil Steinmetz and Fred Londer of UCSD, Grossmont College Gallery, through April 5, 465-1700, ext. 321.

SAN DIEGO SMALL IMAGES 1974: The 10 winners of the Reader-Jack Glenn Gallery contest of photography, drawings, prints, and paintings will be exhibited along with other selected entrants, Jack Glenn Gallery, 424 Fashion Valley, March 8 through March 30, 291-5970.

THE WOVEN ART OF SOUTH ASIA: costumes, looms, and fibers—Kandahar Gallery, University of San Diego, Alcalá Park, Through March 28, 291-6460, ext. 354.

CALIFORNIA HAWAII Regional Exhibition: 100 selected works, Fine Arts Gallery, Balboa Park, Through April 21, 232-7931.

WESTERN PAINTINGS from 1915 to present, by Frederick Becker, an early Taos artist, A. Huney Gallery, corner of Fifth Avenue and Quince, Opens March 24, 295-1522.

MUSIC

CHAMBER MUSIC by the S.D. Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Music of Brahms, Handel, Hindemith, and Mozart, with violist Harry Rumpel, soloing, Camino Theatre, University of San Diego, Thursday, March 21, 8:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS Concert Choir will perform contemporary music by London, Johnston, and Dennis Kam and 16th Century music by Peter Philips and do Vitoria. Also "Sanctus" from Bernstein's Mass, and two songs by Charles Ives. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m.

MUSIC ON THE CHENG: a 16-string Chinese zither, performed by Professor Tsai-Ping Ling, Music Recital Hall, S.D. State, Saturday, March 23, 8:00 p.m. 286-6947.

PIANO RECITAL: Ilana Mysior, music of Mozart, Liszt, Brahms, and Griffes, Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m., Camino Theatre, University of San Diego, 291-6460.

CLASSICAL GUITARIST: Lee Ryan and flutist Liebeth Locke, music of Telemann, Ibert, Diabelli, Music Recital Hall, S.D. State, Sunday, March 24, 8:00 p.m. 286-6947.

STRING CHAMBER MUSIC, directed by Paul Anderson, Recital Hall, S.D. State, Tuesday, March 26, 8:00 p.m. Free, 286-6947.

SAXOPHONE QUARTET, under direction of Roger Greenberg, Recital Hall, S.D. State, Wednesday, March 27, 8:00 p.m. Free, 286-6947.

TOSCA: Puccini's opera, S.D. Civic Theatre, Wednesday and Friday, March 27 and 29, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 31, 2:30 p.m. 238-6510.

THEATER

THE HOBBIT (HOBBITS ARE LITTLE PEOPLE): musical version of Tolkien story, S.D. Junior Theatre, Casa Del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park, March 22 and 29 at 7:30 p.m., mainstage, March 24, 30, 31 at 2:00 p.m. 239-1311.

HADRIAN VII: by Peter Luke, first San Diego production, Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, Tuesdays, through Sundays, 8:00 p.m. Starts Tuesday, March 26, 239-2255.

CHILDREN'S PLAYS: "Where's Mother Goose?" and "On Neil Poor Neil," Actors' Quarter Theatre, Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Through April 13, 234-9325.

THE BIRDS by Aristophanes, Stagehouse Theatre, Grossmont College, Friday, Saturday, March 15, 16, 18, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 21, 22, and 23, 8:00 p.m. 465-1700, ext. 321.

STAR-SPANGLED GIRL: Neil Simon's play, Uncle John's Theatre-Restaurant, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, dinner 8:30 Sunday, 8:00 p.m., Sundays, dinner 8:30, curtain 7:00 p.m. 461-1012.

THREE PENNY OPERA, by Bertolt Brecht (music by Kurt Weill), Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8:00 p.m. 239-2255.

NO EXIT, by Jean Paul Sartre, Old Globe's Cassius Carter Stage, Balboa Park, Tuesdays through Sundays, 8:00 p.m. Through March 31, 239-2255.

IRMA LA DOUCE, with actress Ruta Lee, Off Broadway Theatre, Tuesdays through Fridays, 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Through March 31, 239-6535.

THE GLASS MOON POST: a new play by Todd K. Blakeley and Rose Driffell, Crystal Palace Theatre, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8:30 p.m. Through April 14, 488-8001.

AGAMEMNON AND ELECTRA: Greek tragedies by Aeschylus and Sophocles, respectively, San Diego State Dramatic Arts Theatre, March 22, 23, and 27 to 30, 8 p.m. For reservations call 286-6035.

ALL IN A DAY, young people's special with The New Theatre Group, songs, rhyme and raps, City College Theatre, Saturday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. 234-8451.

OF MICE AND MEN, based on John Steinbeck's story, Actors' Quarter Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 p.m. Through April 13, 234-9325.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND SELF-RELIANCE: two 25 minute color films focusing on the army and on China's industrialization, The Changing Times Bookstore and Community Center, 145 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. 755-5410.

A WOMAN'S WEEK FAIR, with information booths set up by women's organizations, Southwestern College, through March 22nd. Booths open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 420-1331.

CUSTOM CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW: Golden and Plaza Halls, Convention and Performing Arts Center, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 22, 23, and 24, 236-6510.

EASTER CELEBRATION: demonstration of Ukrainian easter egg making and Ukrainian embroidery, San Diego Museum of Man, Sunday, March 24, 274-0313.

SOCIALIST FEMINIST CONFERENCE, with Ruthie Gordon, song writer and singer, Y.W.C.A. downtown, Sunday, March 24, 9:30 to 4:30 p.m. 286-6460.

FRIDAY EVENING IN DEL MAR: dramatic improvisations by Eric Christman, visual compositions with music by light artist John Forner on the "Tympanum Luminorum," two short computer graphic generated films St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Del Mar, Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m. 453-2000, ext. 2095.

BURNING RUBBER: three students from Galatruel College for the Deaf dance and mime a musical "Journal to Nostalgia" — music of the 50's, Montgomery Junior High School, 3470 Uth St., Friday, March 22, 8:00 p.m.