

# California Breezes

COLUMN LEFT

## All Things Considered

**W**e all have that one piece of clothing that has become our favorite thing to wear. Be it an old sweatshirt, slippers that date back to the days of Dick Clark's American Bandstand, or a sport jacket that has been in and out of style three times, there is something in our closet that merits our fondness and affection. For me it has to be a pair of broken-in Levis 501's. With the button fly, of course. After at least 50 washings, they get this nice, soft feel, a bit thin in spots perhaps, but they are, if nothing else—reliable. They ALWAYS feel comfortable, they always look great (sexy on the right bod, I might add!) and they go with anything else I choose to wear. If that isn't reliable, then I don't know what is. Remember buying them in the days before "pre-wash." Stiff as boards, they were sure to stain your underwear blue the first couple times you wore them. Took about ten washings to break them in, and you had to be careful not to wash them with your whites, lest they never be white again. Nowadays they already come broken-in, so this rite of passage has given way to our modern, unromantic need for convenience.



I don't know what made me talk about my 501's, with the button fly, of course. Perhaps I was in a mood to reminisce. Perhaps I couldn't help but be inspired by all the pairs strewn across my bedroom, waiting for them to come to life and march themselves down to the laundry room. Perhaps it was that sometimes I just like to think about one thing that has proven to be steady, reliable, and lovable. So, naturally my 501's came to mind. And besides, they're cheaper to take care of than a dog.

## CONFIDENTIAL

Happy Birthday to  
Mary Lou, who turned  
32 on August 23rd!

## Life Returns to Normal for Mom

**M**y life for the last several months has been quite self-centered. Push and shove from one small victory to the next. Three times-a-week therapy has graduated me from a "walker" with your dad doing all my housekeeping chores to a cane only when I go to church or the store. I have taken back my kitchen and laundry room, make our bed and push the grocery cart.

This week I hope to get back to driving again. Blood, sweat, and tears have not cured all the pain, but progress has been very satisfying to me. So many people have told me I look wonderful—must be the 40 pounds I have lost. So our reunion should be a great deal more enjoyable!

I have a really good and patient fellow helping me through all this and he has given new meaning to our vow of "in sickness and in health" 46 years ago. I pray every day for his continued strength and good health. His day today is a busy one: golfing this morning, lunch with the Edison retirees, dinner at St. Paul's for the fall retreat captains and late night adoration hours at St. Joe's. Not bad for a 70-year old!

Had a nice weekend when Jim and Devin drove in. Devin was quite impressed with the pictures in the earthquake book, showing them to his dad, explaining how scared Uncle Mike was when I happened. We celebrated Jim's

and Mark's birthdays at dinner out and Mary Lou came in for the day with Troy and Robin.

And now it is back to the wet underwear. The washer and dryer call once again.



## Picking Names Instead of Burdens

In *Child Magazine*, Albert Mehrabian of Los Angeles, author of "The Name Game," and Dr. H. David Stein, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatrist Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, offer new parents these pointers for choosing a winning name:

- Steer clear of names with ugly or sexual connotations.
- Try not to choose names that rhyme.
- Be wary of names with strange or difficult spellings.
- Test each name by saying it aloud or using different permutations to make sure it's not problematic, such as Kristal Chandelier.
- If you must use a name because it is a family tradition but it seems a bit outdated or burdensome, allow your child to choose a middle name or a nickname to use every day.
- Seek names that can be a source of pride or that sound friendly, outgoing, savvy or intelligent.

(Taken from the L.A. Times, August 10th)

**Maybe Greg and Frinee will let one of us choose the name. Yeah right!!**

## Greg and Frinee Provide Sanctuary

I must admit this newsletter is more appealing to me than previously thought. Hopefully others will agree and will contribute.

For those who don't know, our household has swelled by two. Ever since January we've had two young girls from war-torn El Salvador staying with us indefinitely. Marlyn is 19 and takes English classes Monday through Thursday evenings in order to improve her language skills for college. Niyume (pronounced NEE-may) is eleven and stays with her sister, taking care of Arianna until school starts in September. The benefits (financial and otherwise) exceed the drawbacks of getting used to two strangers living with us. These girls are the daughters of longtime friends of Frinee's mother. The civil war down there presents danger to young girls, who are targets of the young male soldiers. We are glad to be of help, especially since *their* help with the kids has been quite a relief!

That help will be even more of a blessing from here on out as Frinee bears down on the remaining 5-6 months of her pregnancy. These things have never been easy on her, and this one especially so. She could use more rest time, but since we aren't the Rockefellers, she must continue to work until December. As for being a father again, at first neither one of us was happy with the news. But as time has passed, we are both looking forward to another little one. After all, our

other two "angels" are such a joy to watch grow! Names have not been fully agreed upon yet, and here we are having trouble agreeing. When we finalize our decisions, we'll let y'all know.

It has been a hot and dry summer, and the grass is "browning" up. Definitely makes me look forward to the cooler weather of autumn. Our garden has expanded this year to include a palm tree, five rose bushes, marigolds, elephant ears, a hibiscus plant, an oleander tree, a climbing Caroline jasmine vine-plant, along with the assorted fruit and nut trees that ring our back fence. The heat has taken its toll on them, but we fight back with waterings and fertilizings. This house, inside and out, is a *never-ending* project of improvement, but I enjoy it!

A suggestion would be to come out with this newsletter more frequently than monthly, if material warrants it. It's fun to read about others' goings-on! The well has dried up, so from Houston I say, "Adios!"





## Here & There

Got some scary news the other day from a couple friends of mine who were held up at gunpoint while they were in their house watching television. Two masked gunmen entered from an unlocked back door and confronted one of them with guns. The two friends were tied up with duct tape and put into a bedroom, while the thieves proceeded to ransack the house, taking electronic equipment, some jewelry and cash. Luckily for my friends, they were not harmed, but they were badly shaken by the ordeal. They never seemed to expect something that you hear about on the news all the time to happen to them. It happens all the time in L.A., as it does all across the country. But when it happens to yourself or to friends, the impact seems greater.

---

We've been on the receiving end of some very hot weather during this early-middle part of August. Temps over 100 have been sitting with us, and I guess these are our "dog days of summer." Like Greg, I too look forward to some cooler weather in the fall.

---

Looks like the airlines are having some more price wars on many of their good routes. It comes at a good time as many of us prepare to purchase tickets for the east coast. I can fly into Boston for \$318, which seems to be the route I will go. Hopefully there is a train that goes to Morristown, or maybe renting a car and driving would be preferable.

## What To Wear At the Wedding--Light or Dark?

Being that this upcoming wedding is being held at the tail end of the summer, or early fall, depending upon where one lives, and that it is a late afternoon affair, I began to wonder what the proper attire would be? Having not been to a wedding in a long while, I confess I am a bit out of touch as to when one wears light-colored suits, dark-colored suits, or a combination of the two. Is light-colored okay for fall/afternoon affairs? What if everything is more on the informal side? Will the reception be held immediately after the ceremony, or will it be delayed until the evening?

All these questions race through my mind, and they are important, because traveling the distance that I will be, I am not going to bring unnecessary clothing, especially if I know I won't need to. SO, what will everyone be wearing at this gala affair? Top coat and tails? A rented tux? Last year's blazer? The neighbor's double-breasted job, with the loose button dangling in the front? Inquiring minds want to know!



- I found out at work recently that I have an extra week of vacation that I wasn't expecting. Normally I would qualify for only two weeks until after I have been with Costco for five years. So, I plan on taking a week toward the end of October, and perhaps spend some time in San Diego, and other locales.
- What are you all doing for Labor Day? I am sure noone will be working, except for maybe Bill and Mark. The last traditional day for picnics, I hopefully will be barbecuing with friends.
- I think that the next edition of this newsletter will come out sometime in October, if there is enough to put into it. I would love to get more from those who have yet to contribute. I enjoy putting this together, and it would be great if it could expand to more than three pages. I saw a friend's family newsletter recently, and it covered six pages, crammed with things. I think, too, that my goal would be to publish and send out at the beginning of each month. The exception might be the next one, since it would be so soon after the reunion.



Michael P. Schneider  
5736 N. Las Virgenes Rd. #128  
Calabasas, CA 91302



70:

JOHN & MELISSA SCHNEIDER  
3266 ROSEDALE  
ANN ARBOR, MI. 48108