

Winter  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 8, Issue 27 February 17, 2011

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- 2/17 Doug Otto "Plano ISD Teacher or the Year Award"
- 2/24 Myrtle Hightower/Earnest Burke "Black History Month"

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 ..... Maribelle Davis
- 2/10 ..... Cary Israel
- 2/13 ..... Karla Oliver
- 2/19 ..... Doy le Dean
- 2/22 ..... Dennis Fuller
- 2/27 ..... Carolyn Moebius
- 2/27 ..... Kyle Walters

## CAMPAIGNERS IN THE ROUGH



**A**LTHOUGH Sainted Editor plays fast and loose with his parenthetical remarks, he still does well by his reportage. As a result, the *Weekly Reader* is a pretty fair representation of our meetings (such as they are). As such, they might be a selling point with potential recruits to the Club! You might consider passing the *Reader* on to someone you'd like to see join. Of course, you'd choose the Program wisely; Club Assembly isn't going to recruit anyone, but, when we have a Program of intrinsic interest, your candidate might actually enjoy reading about it, and, into the bargain, get a flavor for how much fun we have with one another. If you've not retained my *Deathless Prose*, you can always find the *Reader* on our website, *Can Willing*. Alternately, if you want just the article, I'll be happy to put your email on the list of those who receive advance copies. Just request that of DrCAParr@AOL.com

Prince John thrice tolled the **CREAT BELL OF ROTARY**, summoning us to attention at 12:16. He conscripted **LB the Good** for the Prayer and **Carole Griesdorf** for the Pledge. ("Thanks, *Bob*...no, wait, *Bob* isn't here!") John thanked **George Washington** and **Abraham Lincoln**, our two invisible Greeters, for their services, and called **CAPTAIN KIRK** to stand in for the AWOL **SERGEANT JENKINS**.



In response to the individual claps, **KIRK** asked us to "hold your applause." He excoriated **Mark Waterbury** for taking his fiancée, *Cassandra Ellidge*, out for a "\$15 Rotary lunch" instead of wine and dining her properly for Valentine's Day. Mark defended his incomprehensible action by suggesting that she was here to check out his claim of having a longer term commitment at least every Thursday at noon. Does this mean that we're duty-bound to inform her of every meeting Mark misses?

**KIRK** went on to assist in welcoming **Rhonda Smith** and **Karen Wobanks**, PISD teachers and counselors here today with the high school students about to compete in the Four-Way Test trials. They accompanied **Pippa Mason**, **Jennifer Conner**, and **Foster Daly** here vying for the three prizes (none were to walk away empty-handed) and the possibility of moving on to the 5810 Four-Way Test Competition. To give the judges, **Chuck Morgan**, **Camille Ussery**, and **Earnest Burke** time to evaluate contestants, Club business would be interspersed between the talks.

And the first order of business was for **KIRK**



to turn the podium back over to **John**, which he did, commenting about **John's** coming abdication à la Egyptian ex-Dictator **Mubarak**. But **KIRK** immediately rescinded the suggestion when it occurred to him that that leaves us with **Brad Shanklin**!

**John** put us on notice that the 5810 Assembly was postponed until February 25 due to inclement weather. He reminded us that the Club will pay the dues. And it probably counts as the world's most egregious make-up.

**LB THE RADIANT** announced that his birthday had passed with nary a present from fellow members! He also wanted to tout the 5810 Foundation "Gala" on February 19<sup>th</sup> for which the Club won't pay. Instead, attendees donate \$125 from which the Foundation gets \$100! So the effective ticket cost is only \$25 for those of us who support the Foundation routinely.

Ean Sullivan claimed that the Downtown Merchants' Association was fully onboard a Soap Box Derby that will close 15<sup>th</sup> Street from McCall's to Haggard Park! Believe it or not, 15<sup>th</sup> Street slopes down along that route, putting the lie to "Plano." Ean also said that our plant at PISD, **Karla Oliver**, would ensure that **SNOW DAYS** won't fall on **RACE DAY**, June 4. Karla sets PISD's calendar and has designated June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> as **SNOW DAYS**.

**Susan Shuler** remarked that there would be a meeting about *Memorial Elementary's* PTA directly following our lunch.

The Master of Ceremonies for the Four-Way Test Contest was **David Ellis**. He told the Club that it could stand a bit of "inspiration and wisdom" doled out by the "fresh talent" gathered for today's talks.



Having introduced the Judges, he told us that **Octavio Ortiz** would serve his tradition role of Timekeeper,



EVERY  
ROTARIAN  
EVERY  
YEAR

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while **KIRK BELL** and **Jan Sullivan** would be Scorer and Auditor, respectively. Then, breaking with tradition, David announced the names of the contestants; they are usually anonymous

until the end to avoid the possibility of favoritism. But we can trust the integrity of our judges to ensure against that, can't we?

The first speaker was Foster Daly. He began the exercise with "*shocking news*" about his sister, who he alleged is a "*texting addict*," pronouncing the disorder very carefully to avoid prurient confusion. He claimed she had sent (and presumably received) "*10,000 messages*" in the previous month. (This bit of hyperbole smacks of the Chinese use of *10,000* to represent any sufficiently large and impressive number, like "*It is better to have walked 10,000 miles than to have read 10,000 books*," a sentiment not designed to please **Maribelle**.)

Foster contends that overuse of texting and similar social networking technology leads to bad grades in English when "*text lingo*" like LOL (laughing out loud) invades homework assignments. He said that when his sister broke her phone (overuse?), she made life unbearable in the household. So he'd classify her as obsessed with (if not possessed by) non-face-to-face interactions. He thinks the latter are in jeopardy, and he wants to apply the 4WT to analyze the situation.



TRUTH: He estimates that addicts, like his sister, spend 50% of their free time "on the phone" in a general sense. Us old fogeys presume that means "talking," but that's the least of what modern "phones" do. He contends that texting leads to plagiarism and a disregard for spelling. (Her phone doesn't spell check?) And he isn't even counting the hazards of DUoP (driving under the influence OF PHONES).



FAIR: Yes, he conceded, modern phones are quick, permitting one to use them expeditiously and "*get back to Life*." But it is easy to obsess over the connectivity. He quoted a survey in Spain (2008) that showed 44M people own 50M phones, an average of 1.14 phones each. (Well, you gotta have a backup, don't you?)

GOODWILL: He also conceded that he was once a "technojunkie," but then he kicked the habit by pondering how a "*lonely tech addict could become the dashing young man you see*" before you. And, having given up infinite connectivity, he BENEFITED all the young women of the world with the new and improved Foster.

He referred us to a 2008 *Journal of Psychiatry* that analyzed "*internet addiction*," and added this cautionary tale. For 6 weeks he had a girlfriend with whom he was very much in love IN THE SIXTH GRADE. (Clearly, an early bloomer.) She broke up with him via a message on MySpace, but he hadn't read it before he met her again and tried to hold her hand. Her expression clued him in as to the inappropriateness of that action, and he's been at odds with the internet since.

He wants us all to see to it that "*our lives are led through our eyes instead of through screens*."

**John** led us in our congratulations of Perfect Attendance Pin winners, viz., **Mary Jo Dean** (16), **Walt Meyer** (21, now he can drink legally), and **Ean Sullivan** (22, the anniversary of a frolicking year).



The stage was set for the next contestant: Pippa Mason. She said that she had won a trophy in a local tournament, but she didn't get it for "*trying*

to kill a drug kingpin" (Grand Theft Auto) or "*winning Mafia Awards*" (Facebook). Instead, it was for proving that "*technology is taking over our lives*."

TRUTH: Five billion users of the internet (that's over 80% of **all humanity**, certainly a gross exaggeration!) are demonstrating that it controls the way we communicate.



FAIR: It's almost fair to the extent that almost everyone has access to the internet. Her Mom came from England, untutored in the ways of American Politics, but she found the platforms of the political parties online and uses a laptop to research them. Pippa herself no longer lugs the steamer trunks full of research for her debates to her tournaments; all that content has been rendered online as well.



GOODWILL: Still home in Britain, Pippa's Grandma has discovered Skype, and demands videophone conversations with her granddaughter. And Pippa stays in contact with her British cousins routinely.

BENEFICIAL: She recounted the experience of an 80-year-old Vietnam War veteran who found and fostered contact with remaining colleagues. She cited web sites devoted to matching volunteers to needs. She said that, in the recent meltdown, her Cairo friends stayed in contact with her by social media postings. And she concluded that, on the internet, one can do homework and rebuild one's marriage as well as (and perhaps simultaneously with) killing drug kingpins.



**John** commented upon a note of thanks from the Plano Police for all the coats donated at our Holiday (not to say *Christmas*) Party. He also commended an Orientation meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at **Tino's** at the Mall, which, unlike Tino's Too, hasn't burst its pipes and flooded the place.

Mark Waterbury noted that while his marriage is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> (giving **Cassandra** plenty of time to reconsider...after all, her namesake could see the future), "*very few of you are invited*" to the **Church of the Incarnation**, possibly because the reception will have an open bar, and Mark can't afford luses.



Bringing up the rear was Jennifer Conner, who asked us to remember a day (trivial for this



demographic) when our wives were expected to vote the way we did. It was that long ago that our daughters didn't go to college, and, if in the workforce, earned less than men. (Wait a minute, that's the contemporary situation!)

TRUTH: She admonished us for the "*plight of women worldwide*," who, being weaker than men (and yet strangely able to bear childbirth), are considered "*less than men*." She decried the tradition that keeps women in the home while the men "*provide for the family*." And she warned us of the infanticide practiced on baby girls in China. And she suggested that when opportunities are given to women (100% of microloans go to women, for example), all of us prosper.

FAIR: It is unfair that 93% of Saudi women are unschooled, compared to 60% of Saudi men. And women have a 40% higher unemployment rate. (But, to be fair, Saudi Arabia, being oil-rich as well as despotic, subsidizes its population to fend off revolution. We'll soon see how successful such a strategy might be.) However, in order to work outside the home, women must dress as boys, she claimed.



BENEFIT: While the \$15B in US aid to Pakistan is squandered on the military, neighboring Bangladesh has invested instead in education, resulting in a more stable environment, lower birthrates, and higher economic development. (...a tempting target, no?) Then she quoted **Charlotte Whitton**, the former Mayor of Ottawa, as saying, "*Whatever women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily this is not difficult*." (But then



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this is the same person who said, "There are two categories of women. Those who are women and those who are men's wives.")

And she concluded, "Stand up. Speak out."

John noted our Rotary table at the Collin County Christian Prayer Breakfast on May 5<sup>th</sup> (coincidentally Cinco de Mayo). Those who wish to go on the Club's nickel may sign up with Jan.

He said that the Board had voted \$250 for each Plano high school for their "lock-in" After Prom Party to keep kids off the streets and out of other obvious troubles. It betrays an amazing level of confidence in our youth!

John commended **LB** and **Lucille Broach** for 58 years of marriage. Mark Waterbury said that when he and **Cassandra** reach that goal, he'll be 104. **Randy Wright** said he'd be there to witness it. Brad Shanklin recommended that Mark shoot for 58 weeks first, and Mark concluded he'd need one less invitation to the wedding.

Since we were still waiting the judge's selections, Randy offered a story about **Mark Zuckerberg's** initiative to merge all the social network programs together in one called "YouTweetFace." Flushed with success, he added, "If God had meant for Man to walk or run, She would not have invented bicycles," prompting Mark to opine that Randy was encroaching on **FLASH'S** bad joke turf.

**Cassandra**, if you read this, understand that this is more than we've heard from Mark throughout the rest of his tenure with Plano Rotary. On the other hand, if impressing you is that important to him, we'll cheerfully accept the attention!

The speakers then were called back to the podium to introduce themselves. Foster Daly told us of his experiences in Plano Youth Leadership and of his intention to major in Debate (not an academic disciple since Plato) at either UT or George Mason. Pippa Mason seconded a vote for UT and said she'll try European Studies or Poli Sci. Jennifer Conner will try Arkansas for Honors Econ then Law.

But still the judges pondered. So, in the interests of "stretching it out," **Prince John** offered that the first place winner would receive \$250, second place would earn \$150, and dead last would get a consolation \$100.

Kirk noted that the results were being inscribed now.

Earnest Burke took the opportunity to impress **Cassandra** further by presenting Mark with his long-overdue **Paul Harris Fellowship**

plaque and pin. The Club had to rise up as one to prompt Randy Wright to spring to his photo-op tasks. Indeed, so in need of a nap was he that he needed giggling for the Four-Way awards.

So, **Cassandra**, if Mark's not here, our meetings will fall apart. Mark commented that some honor was appropriate for his having won the Fantasy Football competition as well. <sigh>



With the checks in hand from Jan, David Ellis presented the Third Place winner, Foster Daly, with his, summoning

Randy back from photographing Flash to do the honors with Foster.

Second Place went to Pippa Mason, while the Grand Deluxe First Place went to Jennifer Conner with an invitation to compete at District Level March 26<sup>th</sup>.



Mark commented that Randy's performance was really making him "rethink who'll do the photos at my wedding." And Randy didn't even make Mark look bad; he's apparently made of sterner stuff.

John tempted Jennifer with the thought of the \$1,000 First Prize at the District Four-Way Test Contest, led us in our own Four-Way Test, and dissolved the congress at 1 pm.



## Member NEWS

### AWARDS:

**Harold Sullivan Award**

Randy Wright

**Athena Award**

Rebecca Caso

**Fred Moses Award**

Richard Butterfly

**Business Executive**

of the Year

Gary Base

### Kersey Can Holder:

Vance Bryson

### Citizen of the Year:

Beth and Duncan Webb

### Rotary Make Up Website:

[www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org)

### New Member Proposals:

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