

SPACE CENTER ROTARY CLUB

LASTOFF

The Space Center Rotary Club meets on Mondays, 11:45 a.m. at the Nassau Bay Hilton

Rotary International District 5890

"Real Happiness is Helping Others"

Rotary International President: Clifford Dochterman District 5890 Governor: Billy Weseman

Club President: Vic Maria

BLASTOFF STAFF: Editor: Gene Oley, Photographers: Vince Lipovsky (Coord.), "Mac" Balfe, Dennis Dillon, Carver Shivers Biographers: Clark Wright (Coord.) and Rosanne Zarcaro Production: Bob Frost, Advertisement Billing: Bill Lowes



NOVEMBER 15, 1993

HAT'S NEWS

PROGRAMS

NOV

- Polly Lewis, Estate Planning
- 15 Jerry Desobe, Samaritan Counseling
- 22 Thanksgiving Fellowship
- 29 Rotary Foundation

DEC

- 6 Randy Hamilton, **Environmental Emissions** Legislation
- 13 Bob Crooks, NAFTA

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd	James Saxe				
4th	Lisa Ehrler				
8th	Danielle Dupuis				
9th	Carver Shivers				
11th	E.I. Tarin				
22nd	Sandra Sausley				
25th	Larry Burrow				
28th	David King				
28th	Vince Lipovsky				
29th	David Sincox				

EVENTS

DEC 15

CHRISTMAS PARTY

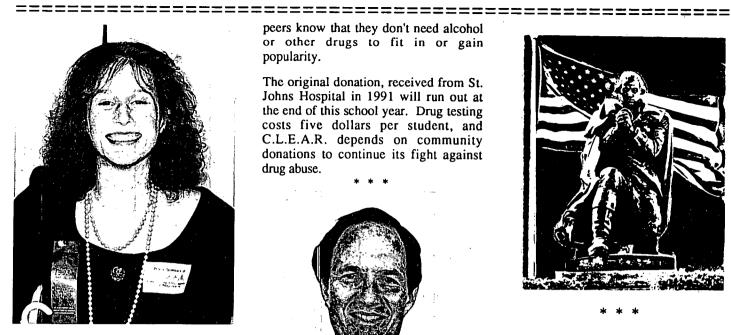


Who Makes the Group a Success?

By Mary Wylie

A group mxmbxr may bx likxnxd to my typxwritxr. It is an old modxl, but it works wall axcapt for ona of thx kxys. Many timxs, I havx wishxd that it worked perfectly. It is true that thxrx arx forty-six kxys that function wall amough, but just onx kxy not working makes the difference. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that my group is somxwhat likx my typxwritxr - not all thx kxys arx pxoplx working togxthxr. You may ask yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only a mxmbxr - onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak thx group." But it doxs makx a diffxrxnex bxcausx a group, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxry pxrson. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson - a mxmbxr - and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in thx group, and for it to function xffxctivxly, I am nxxdxd vxry much!"

Copixd from thx Txxas A&M Univarsity "Class of '83" nawslattar.



C.L.E.A.R. STUDENTS SHARE THEIR DRUG-FREE **SUCCESSES** By Gene Oley

Three students representing their high school's C.L.E.A.R. program kicked off Red Ribbon Week at our club by informing us of the many activities and successes of this student organized drugfree club. Kenny Watson, a senior at Clear Brook High School; Erica Granniss (shown above), a junior at Clear Lake High School; Nicole Cass, a sophomore at Clear Creek High School; and Don Shigekawa, CCISD Drug Free-Schools Coordinator, gave us an update on the C.L.E.A.R. program. Rotarians first heard about the C.L.E.A.R. program in February 1991 when Brad Bailey, Ryan Mossman, and Sean Granere were just starting C.L.E.A.R., and spoke to us about the program.

C.L.E.A.R. stands for Clean Living, Encouragement, and Responsibility. It is a positive peer group made up of eight hundred high school students from the Clear Creek Independent School District who choose to be drug and alcohol free. To become a member, students must submit to and pass a drug test, then continue to pass random tests throughout the school year. C.L.E.A.R. members are issued a special membership card which entitles them to discounts at area businesses and admission to drug-free events. The strength of the program rests with the fact that it is the students program, and they are willing to let their

peers know that they don't need alcohol or other drugs to fit in or gain popularity.

The original donation, received from St. Johns Hospital in 1991 will run out at the end of this school year. Drug testing costs five dollars per student, and C.L.E.A.R. depends on community donations to continue its fight against drug abuse.



DAVID TAYLOR HONORED By Gene Olev

On Wednesday, November 3rd, the Houston Chapter of "The Freedoms Foundation At Valley Forge" will honor Rotarian David Taylor.

The Freedom Foundation was formed in 1949 by President David D. Eisenhower to promote our way of life by educating teachers and students to the freedoms we have

Each year 400 awards in 20 categories are given away nationally. Lucy Eisenhower (Sister-in-law to the late president) nominated David for his community activities and seminars abroad.

In her nomination letter Mrs. Eisenhower said: "Dr. Taylor is definitely an idea man, who not only conceives and develops those ideas but is successful in having his rotary club adopt and pursue those programs to their proper conclusion".

The awards ceremony is open to the public. For details call Mrs. Millsap, 782-7580.



AUSTRALIA & BRAZIL By Tom Childers

The Group Studies Exchange Committee for District 5890 is accepting applications for Rotarian team leaders and non-Rotarian team members for the Australian and Brazil GSE Teams. One team will travel to Australia (District 9680) during the period of approximately February 24 through April 1, 1994; a second team will travel to Brazil (District 4770) during the period of approximately April 30 through May 30, 1994. Each club is being encouraged to submit applications for team leaders and team members for both exchanges. Other important dates are as follows:

<u>Australia</u>

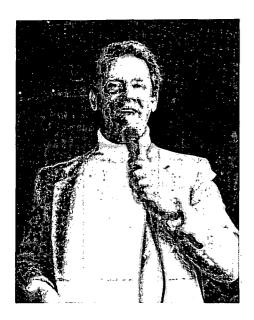
Team Leader Application deadline: October 7, 1993 Team Leader Interviews: October 9, 1993 Team Member App. deadline: November 12, 1993 Team Member Interview/Selection November 20, 1993

<u>Brazil</u>

Team Leader Application deadline: December 31, 1993 Team Leader Interviews: January 15, 1994 Team Member App. deadline: January 21, 1994

Team Member Interview/Selection January 29, 1994

Should you have any questions concerning qualifications, application forms, or matters concerning the program in general, please contact Tom at 550-5568 (H) or 425-2481 (W).



THE FRAUD DETECTIVE
By S.L. Mintz

(Note: Ed Pankau was the speaker at our Nov. 1st meeting. The following is an excerpt from an article with the above column title in the April '93 issue of CFO)

Ed Pankau knew just what he was after when he accompanied FBI special agents raiding the home of a savings and loan executive in Texas. "The first thing I went for was the brandy snifter filled with matchbooks in the living room." he recalls. The son of a bootlegger who brewed beer for Dutch Schultz, the legendary Prohibition-era gangster, Pankau cut his teeth on white collar crime detection while serving in the IRS's Organized Crime Unit in the early 1970's. Since then, this financial gumshoe has earned advanced degrees in criminology and accounting and launched his own financial investigation and forensic accounting firm, Intertect Inc., headquartered in Houston. While Pankau and his ilk populate the backwaters of high finance, they have proven time and again that solving financial crimes is no game for amateurs.

In the S&L embezzlement case, for example, a matchbook from the snifter led authorities to the Hotel Beau Rivage, in Geneva, Switzerland. They knew the crooked manager had transferred \$30 million out of the United States, but did not know where the money was hidden. With the trail extended to Geneva, investigators were able to obtain phone records of the executive's calls from the hotel to local banks and attorneys. In the end, the thrift got a judgment for \$22 million, and regulators seized close to that amount in assets. "This is what forensic accounting is all about," says Pankau proudly. "It melds the skills of the investigator and the accountant."

Pankau belongs to a growing cadre of niche consultants whose job it is to sniff out financial chicanery and gather evidenced that can stand up in criminal or civil court. Unlike traditional auditors who test the reliability of accounting controls and financial statements, forensic accountants arrive on the scene after signs of corporate fraud have emerged. Forget about routine audits and tax work. Put a team of forensic accountants on the trail of a suspected embezzler, and they're in hog heaven.

Significantly more of this work is being done each year, but chances are forensic accounting, which by nature is extremely specialized, will remain the turf of low-profile gumshoes whose styles vary but whose methods are similar. They rely on varying doses of intuition, steadfast determination, and a talent for getting strangers to cooperate.

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The Freedom Team celebrating their successful visit to Poland

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