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Nancy Grgas, Allyn Mattox,
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Growl Editor:

Herb Groom

The President's Message: - Jan. 2006



Many changes have occurred to our Lion friends and family since the last column, particularly, the sad news about Dylan Barras. Dylan has passed away following injuries suffered from a motorcycle accident. Dylan was 15.

At the funeral, the crowd was large, spilling out over outside of the chapel. A large contingent of students from Los Alamitos High school was there. Clearly, clearly, Dylan was loved by many.

I believe that it is a human characteristic to somehow try to relate to such sad news. We think of other loved ones and other difficult situations. Perhaps this is an attempt to cope with our own awkwardness, our own imperfections, and our own mortality.

This is why I hugged my sons a bit harder. My youngest, Kurt is also 15 years old and a Leo. Knowing that I cannot squeeze the life out of him, or protect him from all harm, I can only talk with him and hopefully guide him towards sound decisions. Hearing the news about Dylan, I told Kurt and his older brother Kris to enjoy life and at the same time, please be careful. I also cried a lot.

My President's message for January of 2006 is to remember to love each other and to demonstrate your love frequently through both your words and actions.

Brad and Nancy, you are both good, loving parents and I want to convey my deepest sympathy.

Yours in Lionism,
Tom

Meeting schedule: First and Third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star SteakHouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA



The President's Message: - Dec. 2005



[The following is the actual column that was written by me for the December Growl. The Growl editorial staff did not receive the column in time and went ahead with a substitute. This made for two months of ghost written columns.]

The return of the Growl! Last month, Lions Herb Groom and Mike Narz did a great job resurrecting the Growl. Last month's President's message was ghost written and therefore, this is my first opportunity to write this section.

So first of all, thank you Herb and Mike for your good work.

Second, I want to convey my best holiday wishes to my fellow Lions and their extended families. In particular, our thoughts are with the Dylan Barras and the Barras family and as well as with

Heidi Mann. You may be aware that Dylan Barras was injured in a motorcycle accident last month.

On a significantly lighter note, the Seal Beach Holiday Parade is this Friday, December 2, 2005. Lion Jim Klisanin is organizing this year's event. Lions traditionally play a significant role in the parade every year. It is one of the subtle ways that the community gets to see our involvement and commitment.

As President, I will ride in the parade this year. This will be an unusual experience. Lions Governor Jack Luellen will also be there. Again, all good Lions are encouraged to participate. We will again be the best (and last) participants in the parade.

Particular recognition should be given to our Christmas parade "pit master" Bill Howes. Bill does a great job every year. In tribute, several Seal Beach parents have apparently named their children Bill.

Our annual Holiday party is set for December 17, 2005 at Sam's Seafood. Hope to see you there.

Volunteers for the Youth Center Christmas tree lot start November 30, 2005. If you want to help out, we are also there for a couple of dates in December.

Breakfast with Santa is in December. Seal Beach kids, including several named Bill, will be there to see Santa and enjoy a pancake breakfast courtesy of the Lions. Come down and warm up your heart a bit

In Lionism,
Tom



Club Calendar:

Sunday, January 1
New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 11
6:15 pm : Veteran's Bingo

Thursday, January 12
SB Host Lions Anniversary

Monday, January 16
Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday, January 18
7:00 pm : Meeting night

Friday, January 27
Melvin Jones Dinner

Wednesday, February 1
7:00 pm : Meeting night

Wednesday, February 8
6:15 pm : Veteran's Bingo

Sunday, February 12
Lincoln's Birthday

Tuesday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Wednesday, February 15
7:00 pm : Meeting night

Monday, February 20
President's Day

Wednesday, February 22
Washington's Birthday

{Editor's note: For all of us, the month of December was met with heartfelt emotion and bereavement upon the loss of our dear comrade LEO Dylan Barras.

By way of tribute, this edition of 'The Growl' is dedicated to Dylan thus enabling his likeness and the things he stood for to be remembered for time immemorial.

To achieve a compilation of attributes, memories, etc., assistance from the Leo's and their Advisors was enlisted. With an outpouring of love and gracious kindness, what follows are their fond sentiments.}



LEO President Jasa Denny's message:

Dylan Barras was an active member in the Seal Beach Leo's club. He dedicated many hours to serving the Seal Beach community as well as bringing joy to the people around him. Dylan was a very outgoing, happy, and respectful individual. He was a very funny guy and made many people laugh. In our Leo's club we recognize people for bringing in new members to add to our group.

Dylan brought in many new members that contributed to the overall success of our Leo club. In addition to bringing in his friends, Dylan also brought smiles to our faces when he attended events. Dylan loved the beach and when there would be a Leo's project down at the pier, he would take turns volunteering his time doing community service and catching waves. He was a really funny kid. He was always laughing, making funny faces, and joking around with his friends. We really enjoyed having Dylan as part of our Leo's group and are all honored that we got to know him as well as we all did. Dylan was a friend to all and we miss him immensely.



Seal Beach Leo Club

Dylan Barras

Eulogy given by Leo Advisor Scott Newton, December 16, 2005

Three and a half years ago, Dylan joined the Seal Beach Leo Club. At first, I wasn't sure if it was because he wanted to do community service, he liked free food, or he wanted to meet girls. I later realized that it was all three.

LEO stands for Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity - Dylan did all three.

Experience: In Dylan's first year, it was all about experience. He followed along and did whatever was asked of him. Being a strong new kid, he of course helped at fundraisers doing things like emptying trash, setting-up tables, and carrying heavy stuff around. Whatever the project, Dylan was there – cooking fish, grilling hot dogs, and serving crab to name a few; and of course, he ate a lot. The Leo's are known as the 'all you can eat club' and Dylan certainly took advantage of that. - continued. on next page





Seal Beach Host Lions Club

The Growl

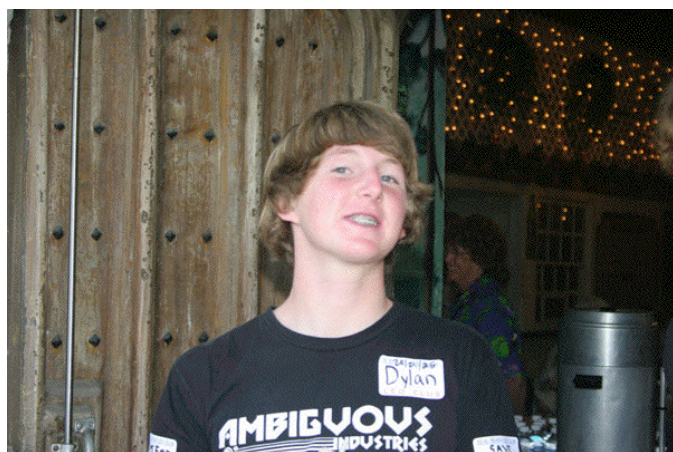
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Opportunity: In Dylan's second year, he wised up a bit and realized that he needed to bring in more people to do the grunt work at projects so he started bringing his buddies to meetings and service projects. He worked at the McGaugh Carnival, cooked for Kids baseball, and helped at the Youth Center's Tree Lot. Dylan was a good worker but learned to delegate some of the tough jobs to his little posse. His 'delegation techniques' were so perfected that he could take surfing breaks during projects and nobody even knew he was gone.



Leadership: In his third year, Dylan had the Leo club thing wired. He was elected to the Board of Directors and now used his brain instead of just his muscle to serve the community. Because of his experience, he could now take leadership roles at service projects, which gave him more opportunity to meet girls. I think I'll leave the rest of the 'girls' story for another time.

In all seriousness, Dylan learned at an early age that there are so many people less fortunate than he was and so he gave of his time unselfishly to help others. He always had fun doing it but knew how important the Leo's work was.

Dylan gave lots of hours of his time to help the less fortunate. – but most importantly, Dylan showed his friends how good it felt to help others. He showed his friends that community service could be cool.

Dylan, I hope you are listening right now buddy. I want to really thank you for being so unselfish, for serving your community, for helping the less fortunate and for leading your friends to do the same. We will certainly miss your muscle and even your brain, but your spirit will live with the Leo's as long as there are people who need our help. Your service continues now in the hearts of others.



Seal Beach Host Lions Club

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Although I never truly got to know Dylan, I always respected him. Just in the way he carried himself, and the way many of his friends looked up to him, you could tell that he was not only a great friend, but also a very strong leader. The way I felt upon hearing of his passing, will never amount to the feelings and emotions that his true friends and family felt and still feel. My prayers have been, and still remain with his family. With this New Year fast approaching, I vow to never forget, but reflect on how Dylan Barras affected my life.

- Erin O'Brien



Dylan, I will never forget you, you were a great kid. You are truly what made Leo's fun and it will never be the same without you. Thanks for everything. May you rest in peace.

- Calvin Kagan

Dylan was a person who could make anybody laugh. He would always have something to say to crack us up. He will never ever be forgotten. He left such an impact on everybody's life. He always lived his life to the fullest every single day.

REST IN PEACE DYLAN

- Emily Hopton



I just wanted to say that although I did not know Dylan personally very well, I know that Brad and Nancy were really great parents. I can't tell you how many times I saw Brad's huge, white truck driving down Los Alamitos/Seal Beach Boulevard, back and forth from the high school. He was always there for his son, putting him first, and doing whatever he needed. He was a dad to all of Dylan's friends, too, offering support and guidance in a gentle way. Dylan was a very lucky son to have parents who loved him so much in his short time on this earth. His sister Whitney also did a wonderful job on the funeral service. We will all miss Dylan very much, and Leo's will seem a little lonely without Dylan there.

- Allyn Mattox, Leo Advisor





RIP DYLAN JAMES

**It's kind of hard wit' you not around
Know you in heaven smilin' down
Watchin' us while we pray for you
Everyday we pray for you
Till the day we meet again
In my heart is where I'll keep you friend**

Dyl-

The memories we shared will never be replaced,
I'll keep them in my heart forever and always.

Seal was your town and that won't change.

Even though, it will never be the same without you.

Walking around, I can think of memories in almost every place,
It hurts to know we'll never be there together again.

I can think of so many times that you brightened my day,
With the silly things you said.

I would give anything to hear you laugh or just to see your beautiful smile.

All I know is through all of this I have learned a lot, but one thing in particular,
Value your friends and your life

And live how you lived -

Like every day was your last.

I know you're looking down on all of us, mourning you, and I know you now can see how
many lives you affected.

Every person you met would say you were unforgettable.

I remember the last time I saw you was the night before the accident-

You were out in front of El Burrito just "chillin" with the boys.

I remember how I walked by you stopping for only a short conversation.

Ever since the day I learned of the accident I haven't been able to forgive myself for that, for
not telling you how much you meant to me, how much I valued the time we spent together,
how much you made my life better and I'm sorry that I never had the chance.

At least now, you can look down on us,

And see that we all love you, whether we showed it or not.

Your family will be taken care of, don't worry.

All of your friends are there for them and I know I'll be there for them until the day I come to
see you in heaven.

You had a great life, and I'm glad I was a part of it.

Rest In Peace Dyl, You will never be forgotten.

Love Always and Forever,
Janey Cowan



Dylan James Barras

I loved the way Dylan talked about Seal Beach. Seal was his city and no one was going to come in and mess that up. He protected Seal Beach like it was a member of his family. I'm going to miss our Seal Beach bodyguard more than anything.

**I will miss you Dylan more than you know.
Your memory lives on in all of us.
You are always missed.
I love you.**

Nicole Welch



Photos by:
Richard Whitehair.

I recall my first meeting with Dylan. It was truly a delightful one.

In April 2004 I chaired the 'Pancake Breakfast' event for a second year. At some point during the morning, Dylan approached me and said he wanted to help cook pancakes. To determine whether he was sincere and truly up to the task, I jokingly asked, "Are you a good Mickey Mouse pancake maker?" With a beaming smile, he peered through the long sandy brown locks that nestled atop his head and graced his cheekbones. In earnest, he confidently replied, "I'm sure I can learn".

It was this attitude that Dylan possessed that made me reflect back for a brief moment on when I was this age – always willing to take on new challenges.

Getting Dylan set up on a griddle, he was joined by fellow Leo, Eric Denny. After a brief lesson in dispensing batter, keeping the flame at the right height, watching for the bubbles and when to flip the flapjack, he became a pancake aficionado.

By mid-morning his competitiveness spawned a bigger challenge: to make the largest pancake. (As many in the Lions/Leo's club know, "Aunt Jemima ain't got nothing on me" when it comes to making pancakes.) Willing of the challenge, I remarked, "Okay, bring it on!"

So quickly onto the griddles went the batter. Gazing over at Dylan and Eric's griddle I immediately realized I was in trouble. To this day I still don't know how he got all that batter to stay in one place. The diameter of this pancake easily measured the distance of a medium pizza pie! But, he had to flip it. How was he ever going to get that sphere to do a somersault? And here is where his budding leadership skills came into play. Finding two of the largest spatulas the club owns in the utility box, one graced his hand and the other Eric's. At the precise moment the team went into action.

Yes, Dylan taught me a wonderful lesson that day, like the many he provided during his tenure with others in the Leo club. I, too, am going to miss him and his many talents.

- Herb Groom, Leo Advisor



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More information & updates at - <http://SealBeachLions.com>

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