

**LETTERS**

**PUBLISHER IMPRESSED  
WITH CLASS**

I wish to share a bit of follow-up from The Orange County Register and Irvine World News articles about the new-comer classroom at University Park Elementary School.

After reading about this class's successes, the new CEO of the publishing company Ballard & Tighe and the company's vice president of sales and marketing were so impressed that they've offered to donate a complete set of their English language development materials to Kathleen Lui's classroom.

Ballard & Tighe publishes "Carousel of IDEAS," which just so happens to be one of the critical instructional tools that Kathleen and other English language development teachers have been using for years, with great results.

On Thursday, Dec. 20, Ballard & Tighe CEO Mark Espinola and Vice President Traci Barnett will visit University Park to present a brand new fourth edition set of "Carousel

of IDEAS" to Kathleen, who up until now has been using an edition that dates back to the early 1990s.

I wish to extend a special thanks to the Register and the Irvine World News for bringing to light the extraordinary work being performed in Kathleen's class. Moreover, I want to express gratitude toward Mark Espinola, Traci Barnett and Ballard & Tighe for making such a magnanimous and worthwhile contribution to University Park.

**Melodee Zamudio**

*Ms. Zamudio is coordinator of Language Minority Programs and Title 1 for Irvine Unified School District*

**ABSOLUTE POWER  
CORRUPTS**

The City Council majority, led by a self-appointed task force of two, Beth Krom and Sukhee Kang, was in its absolute power mode at their recent meeting, lowering the boom on the Irvine Sister City Foundation (SCF).

The SCF is a nonprofit group with a 17-year partner-

ship with the city of Irvine. Their focus is on promoting educational, business and cultural exchanges with sister cities in Hermosillo, Mexico, Tsukuba, Japan, and Taoyuan, Taiwan. The city of Irvine has received national acclaim for the SCF program. Organizations represented on the SCF board include Irvine Chamber of Commerce, Irvine Unified School District, Irvine Valley College, University of California Irvine, Concordia University and the Spectrum Rotary Club.

The problem began in 2006, when Xuhui, communist China applied to become a Sister City. The SCF sent a delegation to Xuhui to discuss the potential and establish conditions to be met.

A document establishing a "one China" policy and other stringent conditions was prepared by the Chinese and signed by a city staff member. Later when SCF discovered the document, for all intent and purposes it destroyed the long-standing relationship with Taoyuan, Taiwan. In addi-

tion, Beth Krom sent the Chinese an unauthorized letter agreeing to the "one China" policy.

The SCF refused to support the document or Krom's letter. However, the dice were cast. The council majority, -Krom, Kang and Larry Agran - had been embarrassed and they don't get mad, they just get even.

The SCF has been stripped of its administrative support by the city. In order to survive, the SCF volunteers, many who work full time, will have to assume a heavy administrative burden. Adding insult to injury, the council majority, while saying there are no hard feelings, intends to add a "Friendship City" program under the new Cultural Affairs bureaucracy.

Nope, no appearance of vindictiveness here, is there? Voters please wake up; Irvine needs to rid itself of the Larry Agran Political Machine in the November 2008, election.

**Patrick A. Rodgers**