



ISSUE #72

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***** DON'T FORGET COMMUNITY *****
ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS: MARCH 4,
*** 7PM, AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER. ***

**NIZHONI SCHOOL: NOT CLOSED,
JUST "STRETCHED OUT"**

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS GRISCOM

For those who have noticed the "for sale" sign outside the Nizhoni School on NM 41 north of town, its founder Chris Griscorn says: "the school isn't closing. We're going onto DVD."

Griscorn has lived in Galisteo for 34 years. Two of her children were born at the Light Institute compound. For a few years in the 1970s she ran a summer school here -- La Escuela Galisteña. "We'd go to the grandmothers' houses, they'd talk about herbs and tell us stories, because I wanted the children to really respect their history." She and then-husband Richard went to Bolivia for a couple of years, and when she returned in the early 1980s, Chris founded the Light Institute in her home on the east side of the Creek. In 1988 she began the Nizhoni School for Global Consciousness, based in various sites (one of them Sunrise Springs in La Cienega). Around 1996 she began building the school on 126 acres of land from the former McKee Ranch.

"I founded the Nizhoni School while listening to my teenagers talk about their lives. I felt I hadn't prepared them to find out who they are. The name is a Navajo sacred word meaning Beauty

Way -- everything is balanced. It was a beautiful description of the concepts we wanted to bring forth in the world.

We had the land for several years before we built on it, so even before we came home to Galisteo we were doing summer camps here.

"We had some students who were really good design people so we came up with the idea of the galaxy design for the school. We built it ourselves, out of straw bales, and a few of the community people came to help us. It's really only half built. But with all the changes in the world we feel we have to take Nizhoni into the 21st century. We do have an Academy of the Media. We need to be able to bring the information from the school out into the world more. So we're putting our favorite courses on DVD, and eventually on the Internet as well, so that more cultures around the world can enjoy them. We have courses in humanity literacy, and financial literacy, and body talk -- which is about health....

"So we're going to sell the land but the school itself will continue as a non-profit educational institute. We're on television now but we'd like to have a more cable TV situation, not just community television. It's shifting so that there are new and fun ways to communicate the essence of the school, which is 'who are we as humans? What do we aspire to? How can we be inspired to see the world from a positive position?' It's a very exciting time for us. It worked out that in December we graduated our last high school students. (We graduate them early because in a small class and the way we teach we get the information across much faster.) And we have some (*Cont. p.2*)



Nizhoni School (Photo: Richard Shuff)

GRISCOM: divinity students finishing their Bachelors of Science and Associates of Arts, so it's a perfect year to let go and go on.

"The school is 16 yrs old. At various times we've had primary school and high school. We pass around 200 people through the school in a year. There are short programs, long programs. We have a small core of students who come to the four-year Divinity School from around the world, who are usually in their thirties or so. Three of my six children have gone to Nizhoni, and the older ones have sent their children to summer school here. My son, Britt Griscom, taught a wonderful course on cosmology.

"Our students are mostly European, because I work much more in Europe than I do in America, though sometimes we have a lot of Latin Americans, or Americans; it kind of moves around. But then the financial difficulties that occurred in Europe affected the school. I hope to do more work around the U.S.

"We teach very holographically, as in increments of knowledge, seeing something all around instead of on a flat surface. I learned this from Chinese medicine. It's a way of thinking. Whether it's mathematics or science or whatever, we try to tie it into the kind of consciousness a child or person has, so it has meaning for them. Mathematics can talk about the structure of music or consciousness of our bodies. Things tie in, make sense. The student is the center of the universe, so to speak. We had a course called "Literature in Search of the Self," taught by Michael Currier. So it's all about who you are and what talents and qualities you have and how you can amplify them, to bring you from a sense of primordial body survival level to 'how can I be a gift to the world?'

"It's been very quiet for Galisteo but we've had some nice communication; summer camps have been involved in community projects; people who lived here have taught or supported the school. It hasn't been a major factor in the community, but it's been a good one. Whenever you have people who are upholding peace, it creates a nice quality for a community.

"Where does the Inn fit in? When I first came to Galisteo, we bid on the Inn and I thought we were going to live there and I was going to do an herb store there. But at the last second, after we arrived, someone else took it. I always had a love affair with the Inn, and I always wanted people who came to the Light Institute or Nizhoni parents to have a place to stay, to walk the land and along the river. I never wanted to build a bunch of stuff here because I wanted to keep Galisteo peaceful. Now the Light Institute will move to the Inn. I'm consolidating things because I want to help the Inn be a joyous center of Galisteo.

"Dennis Kucinich [a Democratic candidate for President of the U.S.] has been my friend for many years. He's stayed in Galisteo many times. As a world statesman, he speaks for the environment and all people. Nizhoni was very important in forming the Department of Peace. We got it through the legislature and it will come into form in the next year. Shirley MacLaine introduced me to Dennis, about 20 years ago. She first came to the Light Institute because she was working on something very particular which became a book, called *Dancing in the Light* [See p.3].

"We will keep the staff, and will always maintain an office here, but we will spread out. Our students travel a lot, giving

courses and talks. We will just amplify that by having it all on DVD. We'll film here and in other places. Schools all over the world have wanted a Nizhoni -- South Africa, Australia... We will facilitate our graduates to be teachers and spread our ideas of education around the world.

"My final comment would be it's very important to me that all our friends in Galisteo know the school is not closing and to thank Galisteo for its support in so many ways. May Nizhoni always be in their hearts, and it will go on out, as it must."

This interview was taped on February 1st at the Light Institute; EL PUENTE's questions have been omitted.

BIG MOMMA

Jan Saunders

Sexual dimorphism is the term that defines differences in plumage color and body size in male and female birds. In most species of birds the male is larger and sports brighter, more colorful feathers, which increase his attractiveness to the opposite sex.

But take a good look at birds of prey such as owls, hawks, and eagles. The female of these species is always larger than the male. There are several interesting theories as to why this is so, but my money is on the Aggressive Courtship Theory. In the mating behavior of predatory birds, the female's larger size may serve as protection from the sharp talons and bill of their aggressive male suitors.

While sexual dimorphism may be an asset for the female raptor, it certainly presents difficulties for the struggling birder trying to determine the difference between two nearly identical species like the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks (*genus accipiter*). These common "bird feeder bandits" are maddeningly similar in plumage and behavior. The fact that the Cooper's Hawk is the larger species is no help at all since a "Big Momma Sharpie" can be very similar in size to a "Small Papa Coop."

Whenever either of these long-tailed, short-winged hawks swoop in on my feeders, the ID game is on. Out come the bird books, the binoculars, and the mental mantra begins: "Sharp-shinned...small head, short neck, squared-off tail tip, perches only in trees. Cooper's...large head and bill, long neck and legs, rounded tail tip, and perches on poles and fence posts as well as tree branches."

A frustrating game indeed unless the two species are miraculously perched side by side. In the end I usually give up. Maybe the difference is only important if you're a raptor.

MICE, CATS, AND PEPPERMINT EXTRACT

T. Brickley, as told by Bill Rhoads

Research done at the University of Michigan by a Navajo scientist from Gallup showed that peppermint extract consistently repelled mice from an area in which it was used. With this information, Bill Rhoads came up with the following advice for those who want to protect their vehicles from invading, disease-carrying, and destructive rodents. Take 4 toddler sippy cups and 2 wash cloths (halved), and peppermint extract. Put half a wash cloth in each cup with enough peppermint extract to keep it saturated and fragrant. Place a cup in each corner (*Cont.p.3*)

of the engine compartment and replenish with extract as needed. Sippy cups work well because they are sturdy, do not easily spill and keep the extract from evaporating too quickly. And they can withstand some gnawing. Mice (but not necessarily pack rats) are repelled, but squirrels and skunks are not put off by this odor.

Nesting under hoods is most likely to occur in cold winter months: the peppermint extract can freeze, but will still have an odor. Peppermint sticks are only eaten. Mothballs can offend rodents for a time and then they are also eaten, along with your wire, plastic, and rubber engine components. Bill Rhoads (who is owner of European Automotive Repair and lives in Cerrillos) says the best defense against rodent invaders is still *cats*.

† CHURCH NEWS †

February 25, Ash Wednesday;

February 29, First Sunday of Lent

March 19, Feast of St. Joseph.

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Jerome Martinez y Alire, JCL

Parish Life Coordinator: Deacon Tom Baca

Masses: Sundays, 9 AM in Cerrillos; 11:30 PM in Galisteo.

Confessions: One half-hour before Mass.

Parish Membership: Anyone living within the territorial boundaries of the Parish is considered a parishioner. However, we ask all parishioners to register in order to help us better serve you. Both of these churches are totally dependant on the generosity of their parishioners for support. The use of envelopes, regardless of the amount of the contribution, makes possible our parish activities and services.

Emergency Calls: 982-5619 (daytime, Cathedral Parish), 989-1947 (evening hours/Catholic Rectory).

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

On February 1st, County Commissioner Mike Anaya co-hosted a party in Santa Fe for Democratic hopeful John Edwards' wife Elizabeth.

Deborah Madison will contribute "a silky mushroom paté with scallion-walnut topping" as part of a six-course meal to be served at the Chiaroscuro Gallery on February 21st. It's the Santa Fe Gallery Association's benefit for ARTsmart in the schools. Tickets are \$150 and include passes to the Feb. 20th Edible Art Tour, wines and hors d'oeuvres. Call 983-8815 or 982-1648. Madison was also quoted in late January about the virtues of organic beef after the Mad Cow scare. (And she was inaccurately identified as "an Eldorado resident." Galisteo is not part of Eldorado...yet.) *

Wayne Aarniokoski's 1935 Ford Pickup was pictured in *The Central New Mexico Advocate* (Jan. 20th) as "a real eyecatcher" at last year's custom car show at the NM State Fairgrounds.

We forgot to mention that **Janice Felty** was featured in a series of concerts around Christmas Eve with Pro Musica in Santa Fe. (Her renditions of old carols were glorious!)



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Santa Fe County's firefighter certification classes are being held every Wednesday night (6-10 PM) through April at the Aqua Fria Fire Station, starting February 18th. *The GVFR is always looking for new members.* If you are interested, call the Moyas (Chief and Assistant Chief) at 466-1544.

On Jan.31, 2003, nationally syndicated columnist Molly Ivins wrote about the Pojoaque Volunteer Fire Department. The chief told her that fire departments were getting more and more medical calls, because few people have good health care. Ambulances and emergency rooms are so expensive, and the fire departments are free. "As a consequence," she writes, "fire departments across the country are now becoming the front-line for a medical system in increasing disrepair...So if some homeless woman by any chance had a child in a stable last night, most likely neither shepherds nor wise men were summoned, but instead volunteer firefighters. Which makes me very happy because I think volunteer firefighters are, by and large, a perfectly wonderful set of people."

ALERT: Spring will soon be here and the Wildland fire season will be upon us. The signs will go up in the Bosque again. March is a good time to clean up around your houses, and to thin nearby trees.

GALISTEO ACCORDING TO SHIRLEY MACLAINE

In her 1985 book Dancing in the Light, Shirley MacLaine rather fancifully describes her drive to Galisteo to see Chris Griscom, who would help her explore past lives.

"The Old Santa Fe Trail led into the modern freeway, which in turn led to a turnoff that I followed into the flatlands of the sprawling New Mexico desert. Indian pueblos dating back to A.D.1250 dotted the countryside, with cottonwood trees swaying above them. Ristras (red peppers tied together) hung in the sunlight from every available rafter..."

"I imagined the Pueblo, Navajo, and Hopi Indians - whom archaeologists feel inhabited the areas as long as six thousand years ago [none of these tribes were named or formed for another few millennia]—roaming the surrounding plains. The Spanish explorers first came to the area in 1558 [Coronado was around here in 1540-41] and their influence was predominant everywhere. Adobe structures, looking like natural humps of clay, blended into the hills, serving their inhabitants as cool protectors in the summer and warm protectors in the winter....Cloud formations splashed against the turquoise sky reminded me of the jewelry I loved to wear whenever I was here [but nowhere else?]..."

"Coming into the sleepy clay-baked community of Galisteo, where about two hundred inhabitants lived, I saw adobe (oven-dried brick) dwellings with flat roofs right out of Biblical times. The town was situated on a knoll in the valley with an extensive view in all directions.... A horse and two stray dogs blocked the main thoroughfare - a dirt road winding past a store marked "Groceries." It had a creaking screen door. Three small children waited for a dilapidated orange school bus. ...

"Carefully I maneuvered around the animals and followed the dirt road across a wooden bridge...I remembered (*Cont. p.4*)

MACLAINE: that Chris's place was on the other side of the central community, veering to the left. Passing hollow metal shells that were once cars, and burros ambling lazily along side paths [!], I made my way to what I remembered was a wooden fence surrounding her house, set apart from the others in the community because of the rangeland around it....

"Chris had grown too. In fact, she was eight and a half months pregnant. With a happy waddle she met my car ...Chris was of medium height, with dishwasher-blond hair which framed her full, open face in soft waves. Her clear blue eyes literally shone from the depth of her being and gave you the feeling that she could see through to the depth of yours."



Political (?) cartoon by John Masee

EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH: JOHN YOUNG

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by **March 5** for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE OR TAKE OUT ADS.

WANTED

Old adobe bricks: Got any lying around outside? I want to buy a few. Call Harmony, leave message, 466-3932.

FOR RENT

New house, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, walled yard, dogs ok: \$1100 per mo. + utilities; furnished. Priscilla, 466-2255.

Fully furnished house and/or guest apartment, 3 months, flexible dates between January and April '04. Call 466-6003.

FOR SALE

First annual Galisteo Chili Challenge t-shirts – red and green, M, L, XL. Call Tom Morin, 466-2218.

Laptop computer: fast, 512 MB Ram. Burn CDs, watch DVD. Lot of software, some training. \$1000. Call Richard, 466-7723.

SERVICES

Freshly Baked Bread and Rolls from Galisteo. To order, call Sabrina and Alex, 466-4331.

Artists' and Writers' Dreamgroup with archetypal therapist Ann Yeomans, alternate Tuesdays, 6-8PM. Please call 466-6070. Call **Beth** for **housesitting/ petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

Galisteo Caretaking Services: For the Chores You Ignore! short notice, small jobs, housesit, have truck. Richard, 466-7723.

Reliable Handyman, Call Kevin, 466-3559.

Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection. Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

Dave's Auto Repair: tune-ups, oil change, minor repairs, auto restoring, painting, local refs. free estimates. David Montoya, 466-2097.

S. B. Lejo/ Sina Brush is taking special orders for original antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

I will take **care of your pets.** I can also **watch children** when needed. (I am thirteen years old.) Simone Montoya, at 466-1518

Electrical Concepts: Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya, 988-8853.

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

Restore your old photo: We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara 466-7723.

Private exercise and Yoga Training with Ron Helman. 34 yrs. experience. All levels and conditions welcome. 466-1919.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

Ben Merrick (16 yrs old): occasional **babysitting** weekends and some evenings; 466-9040.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

One of a kind sterling silver jewelry/ decorative art, wood/tin. Barbara & Joe Cooper, El Estudio, 466-0133.

Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving: scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, coats, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466- 2118.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Barbara Cooper, Isabella Gonzales, Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders. **Production:** Insty-Prints, Santa Fe. **Photographer:** Richard Shuff. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Please send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: March 5th.**

