

THE MAIL CALL



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roger Askew

PICNIC

On September 5th, the branch held it's annual picnic at Magic Mountain. Special thanks to Vice President Calvin Brookins for the wonderful job that he did. Although we did not have to be involved with the cooking this year I know for a fact he spent countless hours making sure all of the arrangements went well. I believe that the 415 plus carriers and their families had a great time. After a day of riding those roller coasters and enjoying the company of all those in attendance it was a real relief to ride on that water ride. The look on my face wasn't too great when the wave rose over the top of my head. I believe that it took over one hour to dry out my shirt, shorts and shoes. We always have some people who complain about either the location of the picnic or the time of year we hold it. I would suggest that those of you who would like to change it next year become involved with the picnic committee. They start in April or May of each year to plan the event.

NATIONAL AGREEMENT

The latest news from Washington, D.C. appears in the recent issue of the NALC bulletin. Both the Union and Management have ended the rebuttal phase of the arbitration. After that both parties will submit written briefs to support their positions. Upon completion of this phase the arbitrator will have up to 30 days to render a decision. What does this mean to you and me? We should probably have some sort of decision towards the end of September or the first couple of weeks in October. As soon as the final contract is announced we will be supplying each shop steward with a copy. From information I have been receiving, our national leadership is presenting a case that would make us all proud. The effort to secure a financial increase worthy of our labors has been pursued sparing no expense. We are all too aware that the main issue has to do with Article 9 and the salary and benefits we receive.

RAY KREYER AWARD

As I wrote in last months article, our branch has a tradition of presenting the annual Ray Kreyer Award at the picnic. This year Velma McClinton and Dan Rathbone were nominated for this recognition. This year the award went to Velma McClinton. Velma was elected to the position of Treasurer of branch 2462 in 1993. She has been elected to the position of District 6 representative and has held this
(Continued on Page 5)



**BRANCH 2462
"RETIREE NITE"
FRIDAY EVENING
OCTOBER 23, 1998
ENCINO GLEN
RESTAURANT**

16821 Burbank Blvd. Encino, California

Doors Open 6:00 P.M.

Price is \$ 7.50

**Retiree's and Active Carriers are Welcome
For Further Information Contact the Union Office**

SPECIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Article V of the NALC Constitution and Article V of the By-Laws of Branch 2462, NALC, notice is hereby given for the Nomination and Election of Delegates to the State and National Convention, Nominations will be held at the October Meeting. Election will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, November 9th., 10th., 12th., as provided in Article IV of the By-Laws of Branch 2462 NALC. All members, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated. Any member, not in good standing or who has not attended at least Nine (9) regular meetings during the twelve (12) months prior to their nomination as a Delegate shall not receive any expenses from the Branch. Any member who has less than one (1) year membership in this Branch who shall have attended at least three fourths (3/4) of those regular meetings, from his/her acceptance into membership, prior to their nomination as a Delegate or Alternate may receive expenses. All members of the Executive Board, by virtue of their office, shall be Delegates to all National and State Conventions. This Branch shall elect a Full Delegation to all National and State Conventions.

"The MailCall" is published monthly by "Heart of the Valley Branch 2462, NALC, 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., Suite 101, Van Nuys, CA 91406 in the interest of and for the Letter Carriers of the Van Nuys Post Office and its Stations. ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE EDITOR ON THE 21ST DAY BEFORE THE REGULAR BRANCH MEETING. ALL ARTICLES MUST BE TYPED OR ON COMPUTER DISK WITH SINGLE LINE SPACING. The Editor reserves the right to delete any article he deems necessary, improper, or unfit. All opinions expressed are those of the writer and are not necessarily those of the Editor or Branch 2462, NALC. The views expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Postal Service. In the hopes that any material contained herein may be of benefit to your Branch and the goals of the NALC, permission is granted to copy and/or use any material in this publication with our best wishes.

BRANCH 2462 MEMBERS ENJOY THE 1999 PICNIC AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN

ATTENDANCE CHART BRANCH MEETINGS

MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
MAIN OFFICE	11	0	7	12	5	8	6	7	8		
ENCINO	8	6	6	8	8	8	8	6	9		
CIVIC CENTER	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	1		
PANORAMA CITY	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0		
SHERMAN OAKS	6	7	5	5	5	5	4	7	4		
SUN VALLEY	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	1		
TARZANA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
RETIREE'S	7	5	5	8	6	7	7	7	6		
TOTAL	37	22	29	40	29	32	28	31	30		

MEETING PLACE OF BRANCH 2462, NALC
6910 HAYVENHURST AVE., SUITE 101
VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM

October
5th
1999

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF "THE MAIL CALL" IS

October 12th

BRANCH OFFICE.....818-786-8505
SICK CALL
FRANK RIMKUS..... 818-892-7118

"RETIREE CORNER"

Our Monthly breakfast's for the next 3 months, will be on the **third Saturday**. Oct 16th, Nov 20th, & Dec 18th. The meeting will be held at Cocos Restaurant(15701 Roscoe Blvd. just west of the 405 Freeway across from Anheuser-Busch) Be sure to mark your calendar and we hope to see you there. Remember to set aside Oct 22nd, (Friday) for our Annual Retirees Dinner..... **Frank Rimkus**

Photos----Frank Rimkus

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By
Calvin Brookins**

Interest Arbitration

After months of testimony from the NALC and the USPS the Interest Arbitration Hearings has come to an end. President Vincent R. Sombrotto made the final rebuttal testimony for the NALC on September 7, putting emphasis on letter carriers demand for higher pay for harder work. The lengthy arbitration hearings for a new NALC-USPS National Agreement ended on September 10, the three member arbitration panel headed by neutral arbitrator George Fleischli will now consider the testimony in executive session before rendering an award that will become the new contract. A lot of people seem to speculate about when we will get a decision, well I am not going to do that however I will suggest that we all be patient and wait for a decision. NALC members through out this branch and around the country should be very proud of the case presented to the arbitrator panel by our leaders in Washington D.C. Being one of the many letter carriers who testified at these hearings I like our chances, lets hope for the best.

Special Route Inspection the Time Is Now

There are some carriers out there that are struggling trying to do their routes in eight hours, when in fact their routes may not be eight hours. Those routes may qualify for a special route inspection as per 271 G of the M-39 handbook. What does it takes to qualify for a special route inspection? If over a 6 consecutive week period, (where work performance is otherwise satisfactory), a route shows over 30 minutes of overtime or auxiliary assistance on each of 3 days or more in each week during this period, the regular carrier assigned to such route shall, upon request, receive a special mail count and inspection to be completed within 4 weeks of the request. If your route qualifies, management must complete the inspection within the specific time frame, and adjust your route within 52 days after completing the count and inspection. (M-39 211.3). To request a special mail count and inspection is your right under 271G of the M-39 handbook. Now is the time to put in for a special route inspection while the volume is heavy, protect your route while it is still manageable. If every carrier with an over burdened route would utilize their rights under 271G of the M-39 handbook manage would every effort to adjust the routes to eight hours the first time. Remember your route is adjusted using an average, which could change from day to day. I strongly urge all carriers that qualify for a special route inspection to request one.

It is very important that all letter carriers do their routes properly, always following all the rules and regulations. Working safely and taking their 30 minutes lunch and 10 minutes breaks. If you have any questions about requesting a special route inspection see your shop steward or call the union office.

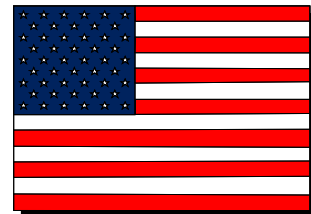
Industrial Accidents

We have experienced a lot of industrial accidents in Van Nuys as of late. What management is doing is trying to show that you the letter carrier were working in an unsafe manner when you were injured on the job. Whenever you get injured on the job you must report such accident immediately to your supervisor. I want to offer you a word of caution, when management began to question you about the accident they may attempt to use what you say against you in the form of discipline. Therefore as soon as management start to ask you questions about the accident, you should ask them if these questions can lead to discipline, regardless of what their an-

swer is you should request to have a shop steward present. Do not write any statements until you have discussed it with the union. I emphasize this, in order to protect your rights against discipline. Remember management has to prove that you were working in an unsafe manner, so lets not help them prove their case against you. Management assumes that because a carrier was injured on the job they were working in an unsafe manner. I write about this because management at one of our stations issued a carrier a letter of warning for working in an unsafe manner. Management makes a statement in the letter of warning about what the carrier was doing, but this never came up in the fact finding nor is it in the carrier written statement. Management obtained this information by questioning this carrier prior to the day the fact finding was held. Again please request a shop steward anytime prior to answering questions put to you by management.

In Unionism

**Pictured above
President Roger Askew presents
Velma McClinton with the 1999
RAY KREYER AWARD**



**The Postal Service's information release regarding slain Chatsworth PTF
Joseph Iletto: A Commentary.
by
JASON D. COLELLO**

The Postal Service issued two informational stand-ups, August 11 and 12, 1999, in regards to Chatsworth PTF Joseph Iletto who was gunned down and murdered while delivering his assignment. The August 11 stand-up informed carriers that Brother Iletto's murder was "not" linked to the August 10 North Valley Jewish Community Center shooting in Granada Hills, California, in which five were injured, three of them children. The Postal Service stated that Brother Iletto's murder was most likely due to personal, or family problems, and that they would share more information when available.

The August 12 stand-up completely reverted the prior day's statement: That Brother Iletto's murder was linked to the North Valley Jewish Community Center shooting, the alleged gunman at the Jewish community Center had admitted to slaying Brother Iletto. Needless to say, carriers were outraged that the Postal Service would, in essence, blame one's personal life as the fault off their own death without "all" of the information. Furthermore, carriers felt their own safety had been compromised, for there was a "carrier killer" on the loose and the Postal Service was "blaming personal" problems for Brother Iletto's tragic demise.

For the next few days, letter carriers stewed with the events of the last several days. Some carriers vented their frustrations over management's actions by occasionally yelling out "liar" on the workroom floor. But all of us felt betrayed by management's handling of the tragedy that befell Brother Joseph Iletto.

Where, exactly did management screw-up? Oddly enough, their error started when someone in management decided to actually keep letter carriers informed about a potentially hazardous situation. However, that "higher-up" on the Postal food chain made a "very bad" decision on what material the carriers would be fed. This "higher-up" probably felt he/she would avert a possible panic by deciding to allow a statement that carrier Joseph Iletto was slain by someone he knew, that this was not an act of "random violence." A decision that further exemplifies that management only views letter carriers as "delivery tools", not as "human beings."

When authorities arrived at the murder scene, they had little evidence to work with. Maybe this was an act of random violence, or perhaps a coldly calculated murder, or something entirely else. An hour earlier a gunman unleashed a barrage of bullets inside the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills, California, injuring five, three of which were children. The authorities most likely considered the two events linked, but as mentioned earlier, the hard evidence was not there, except for nine bullet casings at the murder scene.

As we have witnessed so many times before in previous instances of violence where there is no obvious suspect and that the hard evidence is sparse, investigators do not release what little information they have as not to hinder their investigation. Information that could not only help a perpetrator "cover up" their tracks, but also to assist in the "tracking down" of said perpetrator. Postal Inspectors were present at the murder scene and most likely had the same information as the local authorities, along with the same presumptions that both the slaying of Brother Joseph Iletto and the North Valley Jewish Community Center shootings were possibly linked. Or perhaps the two were not linked, and that a "carrier killer" was still on the loose. Only time & further investigation would tell.

Apparently, the investigating Postal Inspectors reported very little about the murder to the Postal Service itself; the Inspectors had their own investigation to protect. With this sparse amount of information, someone higher-up in postal management pondered this information and made a decision to release a "flawed" statement to letter carriers the following day of the murder.

Perhaps this "higher-up" thought he/she was doing us letter carriers a service by keeping us "in-the-loop", but it sadly appears this "so-called-leader" decided to augment what little information there was as not to hinder the daily operations of the Postal Service. In the morning of August 11, 1999 carriers were told by their station managers/supervisors that the murder of carrier Joseph Iletto and the North Valley Jewish Community Center shootings were not linked, that the murder was probably carried out by someone who knew Brother Iletto, perhaps a family dispute. In essence, we carriers had nothing to fear for there was no one out there with a grudge against the Postal Service; this was a personal problem for the victim.

Once again, we carriers were led to believe that postal management cares about our safety, and that they went "above and beyond" the call of duty. Some of us carriers (me included) thought that management actually came through this time in giving us information pertinent to our safety; that under their "hard-ass" treatment of letter carriers resided a residual modicum of respect for us. Once again we (and I) were wrong. Culprit of both shootings was apprehended, and we carriers received another stand-up on August 12, 1999. (This was my N/S day so I was not present, but I sure heard about it the following day.) We letter carriers were given the same information about how these two tragedies were linked together, as was the general public. Letter carriers were outraged, to say the least. One moment the Postal Service claimed Brother Iletto's murder was due to personal problems, the next moment management casually tells us that the alleged Community Center shooter had confessed to killing Brother Iletto, after turning himself into Las Vegas authorities.

Carrier outrage was inflamed, while the Postal Service was satisfied with the way they handled this situation. The Postal Service led us to believe that Brother Joseph Iletto was a victim of his own personal life, not an unfortunate recipient of someone's twisted rage. Why? To get the mail delivered, that's why. This postal "higher-up" decided to blame Brother Iletto for his misfortune, as not to have to deal with other letter carriers' concerns of personal safety. This "higher-up" fulfilled his/her own delusion of grandeur; "the mail must get through!" This person probably thought that if carriers believed a "carrier killer" was still loose, some carriers would cite National Agreement article 14, the article regarding employee safety, and refuse to carry the mail under this National Contract provision unless the Postal Service could provide a safe work environment.

The Postal Service's disregard for carrier safety is an ongoing template of their "screw safety" attitude when it comes to the delivery of mail. I will break from this current "tragedy" to relive a past disregard of human safety in order to "get the mail out." At the Encino, California post office some

(Continued on Page 5)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(From Page 1)

position for six years. She has been selected as a delegate to the democratic national convention which took place 4 years ago. She has been an elected delegate to both the state and national conventions and has served on the credentials committee at the national convention held in Orlando. She has helped with the annual food drive and has been on the budget committee for the branch. She continues to be active in the legislative arena and spends countless hours during elections campaigns helping elect those that would serve us best in Congress or the state legislation. Both of the members that were nominated have a long tradition of serving the membership of branch 2462 and both deserve our thanks and appreciation. The award is well deserved and congratulations to Velma.

PROFESSIONAL CARRIER'S

It's time to walk the talk and be a professional letter carrier. It takes a real pro to get the job done. According to many postmasters, managers and supervisors, they hate to issue discipline to some of the carriers because they're the best carriers in the office. The reason they're the alleged best is because they run a little faster to give a little quicker service. Unfortunately, your office management staff can no longer protect you. Discipline is on the rise and the time to be a professional is now. Take a look at some of the things a professional does: 1) Doesn't work off the clock (stays away from the case and work room floor when not on the clock, 2) Reports on time and clocks on when scheduled, 3) Performs a complete vehicle inspection per the M-41, 4) Reports any problems, especially safety related, 5) Reports promptly to the case, 6) Cases mail steadily, checking each piece as required before placing it in the case, 7) Makes relays no more than 35 pounds, 8) Never makes trays too heavy, 9) Loads tubs and hampers safely so they may be safely unloaded, 10) Provides final and accurate estimates on Form 3996 after viewing the DPS mail and just prior to leaving for street, 11) Never gives away a one and one-half hour swing for one hour of work, 12) Completes form 1571 for curtailed and delayed mail, 13) Goes directly to the first delivery stop, 14) Takes their street break and lunch as scheduled, unless changed by prior approval from their supervisor, 15) Never fingers mail on steps, crossing streets, when driving or anytime it's unsafe, 16) Never leaves the vehicle running when out of the seat, 17) Wears their seat belt at all times, 18) Locks the vehicle when left it's out of sight, 19) Never walks across unsafe lawns or over walls or bushes, 20) Never drives with mail in their hands, 21) Reports injuries and all accidents immediately to management and 22) Fingers all mail to prevent mis-deliveries. If you responded with a negative answer to any of the above 22 item's, work on it!! Get in the game as a professional letter carrier and avoid unwanted discipline.

EXPECTATIONS

What do you expect from your Branch Officers and Shop Stewards? What would good labor/management relations be like? If we did have good labor management relations would your branch officers be doing their jobs? We are attempting to establish good communications with the postmasters and attempting to have a clear understanding about our respective roles. We are presently attempting to resolve grievances at the lowest possible level. Some people have a perception that if we are not bad mouthing postmasters and supervisors and not appealing all of our grievances to either Step 3 or arbitration then we are not performing our jobs. I have attempted to improve on the communications with each of the

three postmasters and have attempted to establish a better working relationship with each. Sometimes I have succeeded and sometimes I have been less than successful. I believe that we have improved in this area but we still have along way to go. Most of the branch officers feel that we should resolve our problems at the lowest possible level and with as little a fanfare as possible. But we are concerned about your perceptions and what you think. We need to hear from you. It is not my branch but it is our branch!!!

Enough for now, enjoy the Columbus Day holiday and remember that it is through the efforts of our union that we can enjoy a day away from the daily grind.

COLELLO'S COMMENTARY

(From Page 4)

years ago, a clerk saw what appeared to be a bomb in an outgoing mailbox in front of the office early in the morning. Management kept this hush, even as police officers were "roping off" the post office. Over an hour later Encino post office was finally evacuated with the arrival the bomb squad. This did not stop the Encino supervisors from their brave task of "getting the mail out." As mailroom routes returned to pick up more mail, "brave (?)" supervisors went back into the office, against evacuation orders, to retrieve mailroom routes' mail. Thankfully the bomb scare was just that, a scare. However, how can we carriers believe the Postal Service is concerned about our safety when their own, managers, supervisors, disregard their "own" safety just to "get the mail out?"

A few days later after the alleged North Valley Jewish Community Center gunman confessed to killing Brother Iletto, another stand-up ensued, a lame apology, so to speak. Management stated that they were going on the information provided them, and that they were in a lose-lose scenario. They stated that if they remained "hush" on the event concerning brother Iletto, they would have been chastised. And if management informed carriers with the information at hand, they would also be chastised. Management also brought up the condition of the crime scene, and the amount of time that had passed before the county coroner appeared on the scene. Management concluded that they were "damned if they do, damned if they don't", regarding Brother Iletto's murder. Well, management chose the road that "doubly" damns their pathetic actions. And we carriers should have known better!

Perhaps the original intentions to keep letter carriers informed about Brother Joseph Iletto slaying, was, in fact, an honest venture to keep us informed of a "hot" situation. A venture to show us carriers that management can actually take our safety to heart and provide us with the means necessary to protect us from outside dangers. Once again, and sadly enough, we letter carriers are of no consequence to management, they can always get others to carry the mail, regardless of ones safety, regardless of who suffers.

In my opinion, whoever allowed that original information release to letter carriers on August 11, 1999, should be damned for an eternity, you've earned it! May you burn in hell!

"THE MAIL CALL" BRANCH 2462, NALC

Steve Seyfried, Editor
6910 Hayvenhurst Ave., # 101
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Address Correction Requested

Branch Meeting Minutes September 9, 1999

By
Steve Seyfried, Secretary

The Meeting was held at the Branch 2462 Union Hall 6910 Hayvenhurst Ave, Van Nuys California. It was called to order by PRESIDENT ROGER ASKEW at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by TEENAMARIE GALLEGOS. The invocation was led by ROGER ASKEW

MOMENT OF SILENCE--JOSEPH ILETO--BRANCH 2902 and JOHN CACCAMICE--Retiree

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESENT--ASKEW, BROOKINS, SEYFRIED, BRASH, McCLINTON, GALLEGOS, JOHNSON, RATHBONE, T. HALL, BOCEK

ABSENT--TUKESBREY

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS PRINTED IN MAILCALL

WITH FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS--VICE PRESIDENT BROOKINS was NOT present at the July or August meeting. CORRESPONDENCE READ

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WELMER VILLANUEVA

BILLS PRESENTED MOTION TO PAY

M/S/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COLCPE--GALLEGOS \$ 444 in the fund

RETIREEES--RIMKUS There were 6 retirees

present at tonight's meeting. On the Sick List we have JOHN SHANLEY, ANDREW MILLER, IRVING BRECKMAN, RAY KELWIN, RAY MUSE & NELSON WEBER.. We wish them a speedy recovery.

AUDIT--TRUSTEES All is well.

DISTRICT 6--McCLINTON Raffel tickets will be sold for COLCPE at the stations. Attended the Institute for Union Women.

MBA--T. HALL No Report

HBR--TUKESBREY No Report

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT--JOHNSON

TREASURERS REPORT--McCLINTON

EDITOR--SEYFRIED 70 MailCalls were sent 1st Class mail. Still some problems working on them.

VICE-PRESIDENT--BROOKINS Picnic was success, good turnout, final report will be turned in next meeting. DPS, working on problems at Main Office, breaker cards & Station input.

PRESIDENT ASKEW Tonight is last night to count for paid attendance to the Conventions. Next month we start counting towards 2002. Contract negotiations going forward. Vice President Brookins was again back in DC to

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PAID
VAN NUYS, CA
PERMIT No. 314

testify. We should hear something end of Sept or first of Oct. Shop Steward training class will take place November 19 & 20th. All stewards should plan on attending.

SPECIAL AWARDS were announced for NALC membership. BOB ENZ received a pin for 30 years. Other members will receive their award pins at their stations. They are:

40 YEARS--HAROLD THOM, WARREN FAULKNER, JOSE REYNA, JIM TUKESBREY

30 YEARS--RALEIGH JOHNSTON, ROGER ASKEW, NELSON WEBER.

25 YEARS--MONTY MOORMAN, DAN GRAHAM, TERRY BEAUVAIS.

OLD BUSINESS--MOTION TO RECONSIDER M/S/C

MOTION--All members who live in zipcode that begins

with 935-- be sent Mailcall 1st class

DIVISION---YES--5, NO--12 MOTION TO RECONSIDER FAILS

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES READ

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION--Any member who notifies the Branch will

receive the Mailcall 1st class mail

MOTION TO

M/S

TABLE

M/S/C

DIVISION--FOR--4, NO--17

ORIGINAL MOTION

PASSES

EXCUSE--JIM TUKESBREY from the Oct meeting

M/S/C

EXCUSE--CALVIN BROOKINS July & Aug meeting

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch renew the membership in the

LA County Fed of Labor \$ 448.44 for 2 member

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch replace the worn sheets at the dais with blue and gold skirts. Cost not to exceed \$ 150

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch purchase a new computer system. Cost not to exceed \$ 1000.00

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch buy 2 tickets to the Ophelia McFadden dinner in OCT and place a 1/4 page ad in the booklet. Cost \$ 225. The attendees to be chosen by the Branch President

M/S/C

MOTION--Branch donate \$ 50 to the VFW

Burial squadron in the name of JIM TUKESBREY

M/S/C

UNDERLINED DENOTES UNANIMOUS VOTE

SPECIAL CONGRATS TO--

BOB JOHNSON & FRANK BRASH FOR

PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR THE LAST 24 MONTHS

COLCPE DRAWING

\$ 2 JESS PASIAS--MAIN OFFICE

\$ 2 STEVE SEYFRIED--SHERMAN OAKS

\$ 2 BOB JOHNSON--MAIN OFFICE

\$ 2 FRANK BRASH--RETIREE

MEETING ADJOURNED---8:30 PM