



COGNITION

DISCOUNTS for SFBMA Members are available at the following places. Patronize these friendly establishments! And look for *Cognition* at these hot spots! The following bike shops give 10% discount on parts to SFBMA members:

- Foxy Flyer Bike Shop, 3330 Steiner St., SF, 415-674-1910
- Big Swingin' Cycles, 1122 Taraval, SF, 415-661-2462 (also 10% discount on labor)
- Road Rage Bike Rental and Repair, 1063 Folsom, SF, 415-255-1351 (also 15% discount on labor)
- Freewheel Bike Shop, 1920 Hayes St., SF, 415-752-9195 and 980 Valencia, SF, 415-643-9213
- Pedal Revolution, 3075 21st St., 415-641-1264
- Cycle Sports, 3241 Grand, Oakland, 510-444-7900 (also 10% discount on labor)
- Missing Link, 1988 Shattuck, 510-843-7471, 1963 Shattuck, Berkeley 510-843-4763

Other Established friendly(s)

- Cassidy's Bar, 1145 Folsom, SF, 415-241-9990— \$2 beer specials M-F, 6-8 pm for working messengers 21& over
- The Sports Basement, 1301 6th St., SF, 415-437-1415
- XS Bar, 622 Polk St. \$1.50 Pabst for messengers
- Downtown Dawgs @ The Wall, 1/2 price hot dogs, & 75 cent drinks and cookies and brownies \$1.

SFBMA GOODIES LONG SLEEVE & SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES.... BLACK ON RED AND RED ON BLACK.

THANK-YOU THANK-YOU!!!! COGNITION THANKS YOU WHEN YOU PAY YOUR DUES. WE REALLY DO. DUES ARE PAYABLE TO YOUR OFFICERS. RECEIVE A FREE PATCH WHEN YOU PAY HALF-YEAR (\$25) AND A FREE T-SHIRT WHEN YOU PAY A FULL-YEAR (\$50)

Congratulations
Ginger and
Bridget
Wishing you
lots of joy!



COGNITION is the newsletter of the San Francisco Bike Messenger Association, an organization dedicated to the improvement of work conditions for SF's Messenger industry.

S F B M A
255 9th St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-626-1912

Our Offices are located at 255 Ninth Street.
Our home page is at: www.sfbma.org
and e-mail is: sfbmacognition@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR JUNE

- THURS 6/13** SFBMAGENERALMEETING, 7PM 255 9TH ST. LETYOUR VOICE BE HEARD AND HELP LEAD YOUR BMA.
- TUES 6/18** CDTMEETING, 6:30PM BIKE HUT @ THE FOOT OF TOWNSEND AND THE EMBARCADERO. COME BE INVOLVED IN THE POLICYMAKING AND THE PLANNING PROCESS OF THE COURIER DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM.
- SAT. 6/29** CUPID COURIER COLLECTIVE PICNIC (C.C.C.P.) 12-NOON @ SPEEDWAY MEADOW IN GOLDEN GATE PARK. HELP CELEBRATE CUPID'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY WITH APAGAN PIG ROASTAND HOME BREW LIBATION LIBERATION.
- SAT. 6/29** DISASTER ALLEYCAT RACE, 12-NOON ALAMO SQUARE PARK (STEINER AND FULTON). JOIN US AS WE TRAVERSE SAN FRANCISCO THROUGHOUTTHE AFTER NOON AND FINISH WITH A RAFFLE! RAIN OR SHINE! ENTRY FEE IS \$5 WITH NO ONE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF FUNDS. PRIDE PARADE, TIME/MEETING PLACE TBA. GETOUTAND SHOW SOME REAL MESSENGER PRIDE!

MISSION IMPOSSIBLES'SOFTBALLEVERY SUNDAY 4PM, BASEBALLDIAMOND @ CESAR CHAVEZ AND POTRERO HEYFEELFREE TO ADD YOUR OWN EVENTS! SEND THEM TO sfbmacognition@hotmail.com BY THE LAST FRIDAYOF EVERY MONTH.



HAVEN'T WE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

BY NATO GREEN

The owner of ProMess, intrepid Napoleon-imitator and delusional philanthropist Joel Ritch, is up to his usual mischief. Those of us who have been involved in union organizing at ProMess must be naïve—we keep being surprised by each new misdeed and deceit of Joel and his coterie of battle-droid managers. Joel has declared war on the very messengers who paid for his Cadillac and his nice big house on Buena Vista Park. So now we have to open up a frosty can of whoop-ass just to protect what we've got, let alone make anything better.

The latest word from the streets on May 29 is that ProMess bought (or merged with) Silver Bullet. Some sources report that Bullet riders were invited to report to work at ProMess on Monday, June 3rd as non-union workers. This was of course a surprise to Pro employees who have been members of ILWU Local 6 since summer 2000. We don't know whether the Silver Bullet employees are being brought in as scabs and union-busters in case of another strike, or to vote with the company in another union election which may or may not happen. There are, however, two questions that press themselves to the minds of many:

1) How is it that Joel can afford to buy another messenger company when he's been telling us in contract negotiations for months that there's no money for raises?

2) One Silver Bullet driver was Pro's old Human Resources guy Ernie Foxman. Can he bear to work for Joel again?

The Silver Bullet thing is just the latest bit of dookie from ProMess. For one thing, they've been paying employees for weeks to drive around in company trucks to pass a petition to get rid of the ILWU. Many of the people who did sign were deceived or intimidated into it.

So on Tuesday, the day before the Silver Bullet news, Pro's lawyer Rob Hultang of Littler, Mendelson called the ILWU to cancel contract negotiations and claim that their decertification petition was valid, without offering to produce it for verification. (I don't want to say that Rob is ugly, but if you puked on his head, no one

(CONT'D ON PAGE 3)

What a Delight, It's the Westside Invite

BY NICE TIM

When we got into Portland for the 2nd annual Westside Invite we soon learned that there is a Seattle/S.F. rivalry that we were apparently oblivious to. Fortunately it turned out to be a friendly rivalry and was only a tiny part of a weekend that drew couriers from all up and down the West Coast and as far away as Minneapolis and Chicago.

The kids in Portland had a big reputation to live up to. Many of the people who came up (myself included) had heard about how great last year's event had been and had jumped at the chance to visit up north. It didn't hurt that Pabst Blue Ribbon was the major sponsor. The idea of large amounts of cheap or free P.B.R. is bound to attract a lot of bummies.

The messengers in P-town definitely put on a great event and exceeded most everyone's expectations. The main race was a sort of championship style course set up in the park on Mt Tabor. There were infinite ways to ride the course including a bunch of trails for short cuts. It was wild to watch a crazy bastard on a tall bike, Todd of Portland on his fixie and Zo on his cargo bike all bomb precariously down a super steep grass hill to checkpoint #7. The top of the park was the start/finish line and where the other events were held (track skid, track stand, and sprints). We had a comfy grassy knoll to spectate from and drink beer. There were probably over 150 people racing, running the events or just hanging out. San Francisco was well represented with

(CONT'D ON PAGE 6)

SPECIAL REPORT



Carey Dall, SFBMA Executive Director

Listen Up,
This is Your
Executive Director,
You Bummies!

BY CAREY DALL

We've had one hell of a ride the past couple of weeks. The first revelation to ripple the otherwise calm late spring waters was that First Legal had gobbled up Pac Coast. Then, on Tuesday May 28th we learned that Pro Mess acquired that bastion of messengerdom, Silver Bullet. In between such major happenings, a good sized crowd made it up to Guerneville on the annual SFBMA Russian River Ride.

The two pies that our esteemed Nosmo once described keep spinning. As Cognition goes to press, there is little clarity about what the recent consolidation in our industry will mean. What we do know is that two companies who have historically shown outright hostility to their workers - specifically those with the courage to organize a voice amongst co-workers in order to demand what is legally theirs - have become larger. What we can expect is that both companies will continue to break the law as they attempt to keep the workers' union, the ILWU, at bay. As a community, our best option is to assist all the workers at Pro and First Legal in any way

(CONT'D ON PAGE 7)

EDITOR'S NOTE: AT COGNITION, WE WISH TO REPRESENT THE FULL SPECTRUM OF OUR COMMUNITY. BEYOND THAT WE WISH TO FOSTER DISCUSSION AND DEBATE, TO ENCOURAGE OTHER TO THINK AND ACT CONSCIOUSLY AS MESSENGERS AND AS CYCLISTS. TO THIS AIM WE TRY TO REPRESENT AS MANY VIEW POINTS AS POSSIBLE. WE WELCOME ALL INPUT. IF YOU TAKE POINT WITH A CERTAIN ARTICLE OR WRITER, LET US KNOW. SEND YOUR OPINION. LET YOUR VOICE BE KNOWN. AND MAYBE, WE'LL ALL BE BETTER FOR IT.