

Irvine

25 CENTS
VOL. 26 No. 9
THREE SECTIONS

MARCH 3, 1994
SECTION A
108 PAGES

PEOPLE

WORLD NEWS



Betty Friedan

Betty Friedan aims pen at issue of aging

SEE PAGE / A3

INSIDE

UCI report advises cuts in high level positions

SEE PAGE / A8

Teens, cops sitting down to talk about each other

SEE PAGE / A24

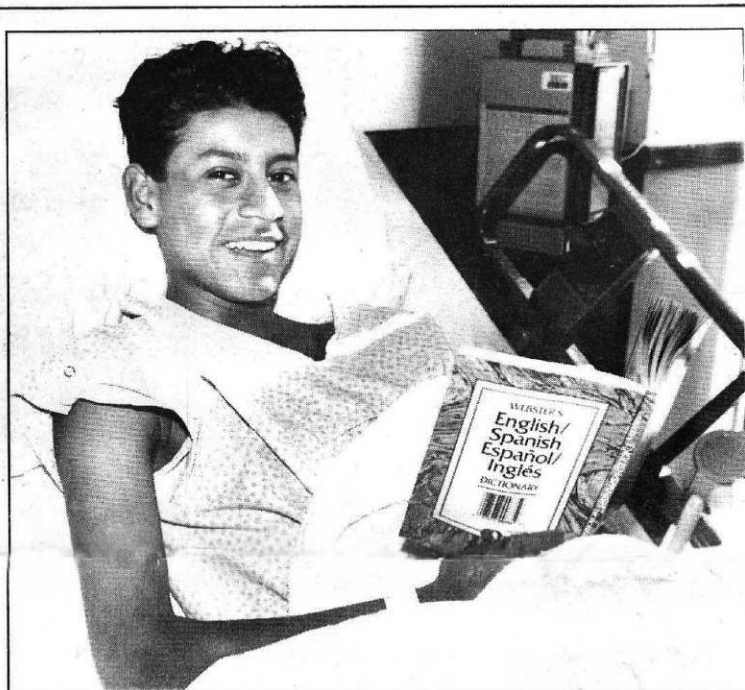
EDITORIAL

Public must keep informed about options for El Toro

SEE PAGE / A42

INDEX

ACTIVITIES	B22
BUSINESS	B11
CLASSIFIED	C1
EDITORIAL/OPINION	A42
ENTERTAINMENT	B16
RELIGION	B24
SPORTS	B2
VITAL STATISTICS	A35



STAFF PHOTO/LEE PAYNE

Learning English: Miguel Ortiz, 16, of Guatemala, uses an English/Spanish dictionary for language help while he recuperates at Irvine Medical Center.

Corrective surgery gives Guatemalan boy hope for a normal life

Miguel Ortiz looking forward to playing soccer

BY PEGGY BLIZZARD
STAFF WRITER

Still a little groggy from an operation Monday to correct his clubfoot, Miguel Ortiz still managed a wide smile for a photographer Wednesday morning at Irvine Medical Center.

The 16-year-old from Guatemala arrived Feb. 15 to prepare for the surgery performed without charge by Irvine podiatric surgeon Victor Cachia. Irvine Medical Center also provided all services free, including hospitalization, diagnostic services and imaging studies, according to Donna H. Groh, vice president and chief operating officer for the hospital.

According to Dr. Cachia the surgery involved a soft tissue release and the removal of bony wedges.

Lasted four hours

The operation, which lasted more than

four hours, "went very well," said Cachia. "We were able to realign his foot and transfer three tendons" to allow for movement.

Assisting the surgeon were several other physicians—Irvine podiatrist Nicholas Terrafra, anesthesiologist Jay Rindenau, neurologist Bob Clearmans and pediatrician Annu Sharma.

Cachia met Miguel last October when he and other doctors were at a clinic in Guatemala under the auspices of En El, a group affiliated with the Archdiocese of Brooklyn, N.Y. It was En El that paid for Miguel's flight to California, said Cachia.

The youngster was scheduled to undergo the operation in Guatemala, but a toenail infection "put him too much at risk," said Cachia.

"The child was devastated," recalled the surgeon. "He thought he missed his only lifetime opportunity to have his foot corrected.

SEE SURGERY / A2

Youths with knife jump, rob 5th grader

Boy's father headed task force exploring teen violence in city

BY CHERYL WOOLARD
STAFF WRITER

The 11-year-old son of a leader in the campaign against youth violence in Irvine was robbed at knifepoint by teen-agers as he bicycled home from school Monday.

Man Greg Smith, was not injured in the attack, but his nerves were jangled, his father said.

"He is OK, thank God," Smith said Tuesday. "I could tell he was frightened. I drove him to school today."

Taking new route home

Grant, an El Camino School fifth grader, was taking a new route home Monday when he was attacked by about six youths who were apparently lying in wait for someone to come along. Smith said his son told police the six were hiding in bushes alongside a bike path near Alderwood and East

SEE ROBBED / A2

College district board OKs contracts for administrators

BY PATRICK LARKIN
STAFF WRITER

Board members of the Saddleback Community College District approved contracts for two new top-level administrators Monday night at Irvine Valley College.

The board approved contracts for new district Chancellor Robert Lombardi and Saddleback College President Ned Doffoney.

Lombardi was given a three-year contract at \$145,000 a year, while Doffoney's two-year deal pays \$92,225 a year. Both salaries are exclusive of expenses and benefits.

Lombardi began work as chancellor on Wednesday after resigning as president at College of the Sequoias in Visalia. He replaces Interim Chancellor

SEE COLLEGE / A2

FROM / A1

We were touched by it."

'A very special person'

Cachia added that all the doctors found Miguel "a very special person" who was determined to succeed and make his life better.

"It was only because of where he lives that he had to live with this. We decided to do what we could to help him lead a normal life."

With the help of Ramon Heredia, a mail room associate at Irvine Medical Center serving as interpreter on Wednesday, Ortiz said he was not sure what he wanted to do first

when his foot is healed and the bandages are off.

"But," he said, "I am going to be so happy. I will be normal. It will be incredible."

Miguel added that the most important thing he will be able to do that he could not do before is play soccer. All of his friends play soccer, said Miguel.

Not nervous

Ortiz said he was not nervous before surgery, adding "I was so happy that it was going to happen."

When Dr. Cachia first told him he wanted to bring him to California for the operation, "I did not believe it," said Miguel.

"I was surprised. I could not believe that a person that I did not know would be interested in me. I was not sure it was going to happen. Then I saw they were doing things to bring me here."

This included preparing the necessary papers and obtaining a passport.

Because he has no family here, Ortiz has been staying at the San Juan Capistrano home of Cachia and also spending time with his U.S. guardian, Jo Johans of Newport Beach.

Recovery will take time

Cachia said it will be at least 12 weeks before Miguel can walk including six weeks of

complete immobility and six-weeks with a weight-bearing cast.

"After that there will be rehabilitation and physical therapy," said the surgeon, adding, "He is recovering well. All signs are that the operation was a success."

Ortiz also has received offers to get some education while he is in the U.S., according to Cachia.

Meanwhile, Ortiz is using an English-Spanish dictionary to help him with his English. He is well on his way.

When the photographer departed with a "Muchas gracias," Miguel responded with a cheery, "Your welcome."