

We're Not "Kidding": *Debbie McCormick*

Keep Platform Diving Indoors at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool



McCormick
DIVERS
Making a Splash Since 1968



My name is Kelly McCormick Robertson. I am the daughter of the late Glenn McCormick. I'm writing this letter on behalf of the diving community as well as the whole state of California. I dived for my dad at the Belmont Plaza beginning as a little girl. I remember countless evenings there training, as the sun would go down on the horizon. What a beautiful location, a one of a kind experience, especially if you weren't from the area. I've been around the world competing in countless pools and none topped the atmosphere of The Belmont Plaza.

Some of my accomplishments because of being able to train indoors year round are:

- 10 time national champion
- 83-87 gold medalist at the Pan American

Games

- 84 Silver medal at the Olympic Games
- 88 Bronze medal at the Olympic Games

Not to mention being able to attend The Ohio State University and competing for them. All of this success is truly connected to The Belmont Plaza.

It would be such a travesty if it is not rebuilt with all the necessary equipment to host worldwide events. I'm now residing up in Seattle Washington, where there is only one indoor facility in the state. The Belmont Plaza would be the 2nd indoor facility in the region where countless national and international events could and would take place. Bringing much recognition and revenue to the City of Long Beach.

Besides being a facility for training athletes, it offers the people in the surrounding areas a place to learn how to swim, dive and to spend time with their kids. Think of all those kids you could, and have already helped to further their education and be productive citizens of the Community. Isn't that what you want as a city official?

I hope you honestly are listening to those of us that experienced just how special The Belmont Plaza was. Make someone else's dreams come true!!

Sincerely,
Kelly McCormick Robertson

Dear Long Beach City Council,

I understand Long Beach's Belmont Plaza is falling apart. As an Olympian and diver, I must lend my voice to support a new state of the art dive facility. I am originally from San Diego, East County. It is hard to believe San Diego has had two Olympic gold medalists for men's platform in the Olympic Games and still does not have a ten meter platform. While I was training, Belmont Plaza was the only indoor platform facility in Southern California – it still is. This facility was crucial for my preparation for my first Olympic Games in 1976, in which I earned a silver medal.



Dr. Sammy Lee, Debby McCormick, Greg Louganis

We have several things happening which are a boon for the sport of diving: a gold medal in the men's platform event in London – the first since I won my gold in 1988! And we have a reenergized interest in our sport as two networks have produced a show about diving, one of which I am personally attached to. ABC's "Splash" was all set to shoot their series at Long Beach, as they wanted to stay in California, but they had to move due to problems with the facility.

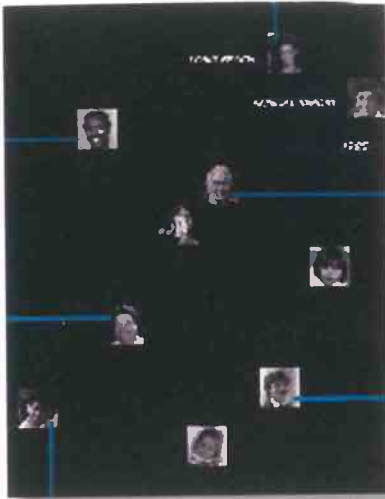
What a perfect opportunity to celebrate this beautiful sport by building a brand new state of the art facility in my home where I was born and raised! Potentially, it could become the "home" of "Splash" and raise Southern California's profile as the place to go to become the best in the world in diving!

I hate to admit, but I did have to move out of the state to pursue my diving dreams: training camps in Decatur Alabama, a summer in Tucson, Az., U of Miami for college, and the last 3 years of my diving career in Boca Raton Florida. I did what I had to do to be the best! How wonderful it would be to give young people the ability to stay in Southern California to pursue a dream of excellence? That is what a modern dive facility could provide.

The reality is that the entire world is chasing China, and will be for a long time. Having a place to train is key to breaking that cycle of dominance. I hope you can see the value in keeping our sport thriving on its current path, and support young kids' dreams of Olympic success!

Namaste
Greg Louganis

Greg
LOUGANIS
Diving into Excellence



Dear Mr. Delong,

My name is Starla Cortopassi and I am a professional designer. I worked on contract with the City of Long Beach for several years in the 1980's and designed the City's Annual Reports along with many other publications for your city.

I recently designed a campaign for the McCormick Divers for an international diving event that attracted many people from all over the world to Belmont Plaza Pool and featured specialty divers from Finland.

I developed the "Summer Games" logo for the four sports that Long Beach hosted in the 1984 Olympics: Archery, Badminton, Basketball and Fencing. This logo appeared on billboards, banners, medals, books, and many other mediums.

In 1985 Long Beach's Annual Report focused on "The Community" as their theme and Glenn McCormick was featured on page 11. He represented a big part of the community and gave a testimony that *"Diving facilities are very, very limited," says McCormick. "Long Beach is the only place that has the facilities we need."*

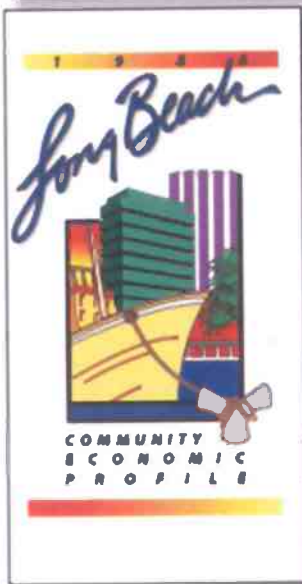
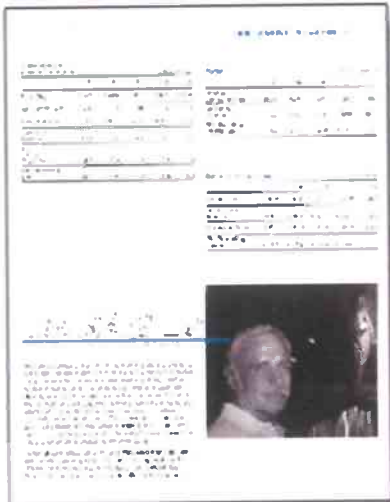
Many aquatic teams host events at Belmont Plaza Pool and with the athletes, come their families and friends from out of the area. They stay in your hotels, eat in your restaurants, shop in the many stores that support your entrepreneurs, but most of all they experience Long Beach who proclaims that *"the citizens are the real strength of the community. Their strong social values, economic achievements, and personal and civic pride are what makes our city great."*

Is the community still an important factor in making important decisions in the development and pride of Long Beach?

There will always be budgets to deal with but, your community is asking you to include what has always been a landmark for excellence, the "McCormick Diving Team."

Please include the *"world class facility"* that Belmont Plaza Pool provided, in your new pool plans. The towers, three meter boards, and the required pool depths are integral factors.

After being away from Long Beach for many years, I came back three weeks ago for a trade show at the convention center. I was amazed at how the city had changed and very happy to see the busy downtown area on a weekend. Long Beach has come a long way since the 80's and I can't wait to see how great you can make this new pool and diving facility. I believe that with good planning Long Beach will again attract "World Class Aquatic Events."



TIDELANDS OPERATION

Convention and Entertainment Center

	Dollars in Millions				
	81	82	83	84	85
Event Days	1,402	2,070	1,962	2,212	2,975
No. Conventions	240	23	62	35	41
Delegates (XX)	411.2	230.2	205.1	332.5	315
Operating Revenue	\$ 7.9	\$ 2.8	\$ 0.5	\$ 1.0	\$ 1.4
(Loss) before Depreciation	(1.2)	(3.0)	(1.5)	(2.2)	(1.1)
Net Operating (Loss)	\$(2.4)	\$(4.4)	\$(2.3)	\$(3.5)	\$(2.3)

Marina

	Dollars in Millions				
	81	82	83	84	85
Revenue					
Occupancy rate	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Operating Revenue	\$ 1.8	\$ 4.7	\$ 2.5	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.9
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 1.7	\$ 1.1	\$ 2.0	\$ 3.4	\$ 3.7

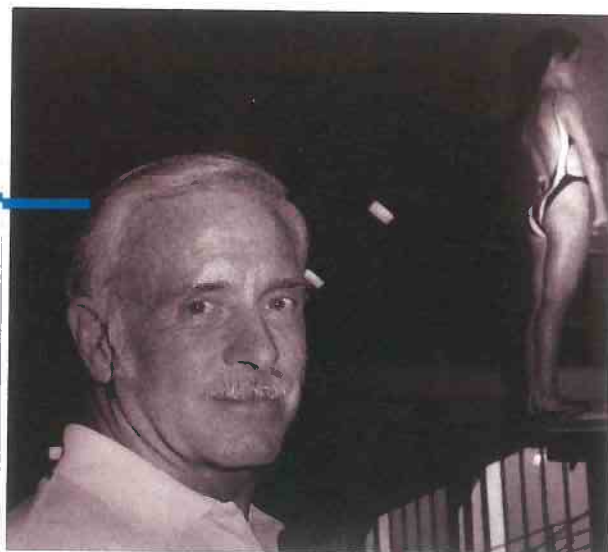
Tidelands Oil Operations

	Dollars in Millions				
	81	82	83	84	85
Shareholders'	24.9	24.6	24.7	25.9	28.9
Gross Operating Revenue	\$407.7	\$343.8	\$362.7	\$376.7	\$420.2
Payment to State	120.7	320.0	327.9	286.0	308.7
Net Operating Income	\$ 12.8	\$ 2.4	\$ 3.0	\$ 6.4	\$ 3.4



McCormick Divers at Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach sports one of the famous names in diving. Coach Glenn McCormick's daughter Kelly has won some seven national titles, the Pan American Games and a silver medal in the recent Olympics. "Ninety percent of the kids we coach are between 10 and 17. But our youngest is 8, and we have one man who dives for us who's 65," Glenn McCormick says. "We had five kids in national competition this year. Our top senior gal just came back from a national meet, where she took ninth in platform, seventh on the 1-meter, and eighth on the 3-meter board. She has just accepted a scholarship to Ohio State."

Tidelands Oil money, which originally built the municipal pool, will soon be repairing lights, tile and replacing two boards. "Diving facilities are very, very limited," says McCormick. "Long Beach is the only place that has the facilities we need."



SAVE THE BELMONT CLIFFS FROM DYING TOWER



Dear Long Beach City Council Members,

My name is Cassidy Krug, and I am the captain of the 2012 US Olympic diving team.

In a lot of ways, the Belmont Plaza Pool's closure is a tragedy for my sport. The pool itself is legendary, as are the McCormick Divers. It's sad to see the doors close on a facility that hosted so many historic competitions and produced so many national and international champions.

Belmont's closure is also a huge opportunity for the sport of diving in our nation, and for the city of Long Beach. This transition is a unique chance to start fresh with a state-of-the-art indoor diving facility: one that will draw competitors from the west coast, the rest of the country,

and – undoubtedly – even the world.

Currently, there are no other indoor pools with platforms in the entire state of California. To my knowledge there are now only two on the entire west coast. One, in Federal Way, WA, has hosted nearly every diving Pac-12 championship meet for the last 10 years, along with NCAA national championships, Olympic Trials, Goodwill Games, and a multitude of regional diving events. Most of these major meets need to be hosted in indoor facilities because of the consistent temperature, lighting, etc.

A new Belmont pool with an indoor 5, 7.5 and 10-meter platform and updated equipment would instantly become a major training and competition center, not just for California or the west coast, but for the entire country. It would bring both prestige and tourism dollars to the city of Long Beach.

An indoor pool with a platform would also ensure that the McCormick Diving Team could continue to serve the community and children of Long Beach and its surrounding cities. I've been a diver nearly all my life, and it would take me a long time to explain the direct impact diving has had on my life: physical strength and agility; poise under pressure; the realization that hard work can be fun; the self-belief to set goals, the discipline to work for them, and the joy of reaching them. I really feel for all the kids who woke up one morning to find their pool closed and their diving dreams in jeopardy, and it saddens me to think that the next generation of Long Beach children may not have the opportunity to participate in this wonderful sport at a world-class level.

I hope that you see the positive impact that an indoor competitive diving facility would make on the City of Long Beach, both by serving the local community and drawing the attention of the entire country. Thank you for your time.

Cassidy Krug

2012 Diving Olympic Finalist

A Tribute to Glenn P. McCormick

December 31, 1925 - October 21, 1995

By DAVID COTTON

We were all stunned when we learned of Glenn's sudden passing, the cause believed to be an earlier treated skin cancer that metastasized to the brain. He was such a wonderful father, coach and friend to so many people. An inductee to the International Swimming Hall of Fame last May, he will sorely be missed but never forgotten. A memorial service held Nov. 19 was attended by over 400 people. The sign-in book, which contained the names of 19 Olympians, read like the Who's Who of Diving. The mood was that of a somber celebration of life, a coming of age. Here's some history:

Glenn was born in Elgin, Ill., into the family of parents Paul and Hazel McCormick and sister Lila, three years older. Glenn's father worked as a watchmaker at the Elgin Watch Co. in the post-Depression era. Always interested in sports, young Glenn was challenged by severe asthma until his mid-teens. In the summers, Glenn would often be found tinkering with his Model A Ford or at the local pool playing on the diving boards. In his freshman year of high school, he lettered in football and basketball but found his real niche was in wrestling, in which he made the first team as a sophomore. In his senior year, Glenn won the Northern Illinois Sectionals and placed fourth in the state championships.

With the country in turmoil over World War II, young men were joining the military in droves. Glenn was accepted into the Naval Aviation Program and received orders to report for active duty in September 1943—at 17 years old. Two years later, Glenn received his wings and became an officer. Sister Lila recalls once seeing a Piper Cub fly very low over their house. Glenn could be seen waving from the cockpit, giving their mother fits. Glenn enjoyed the officer's life—and still found time to do some diving, tumbling and trampolining in the off hours. He often watched with great interest a young sailor named Bruce Harlan working out at the officers club with R. Jackson Smith.

After leaving the Navy in 1947, Glenn joined his parents in Long Beach, Calif., and dived for the YMCA, winning the Southern

California Championships in the 1M. He was invited to dive in an exhibition at the Pacific Yacht Club, where he met a cute young diver named Pat Keller and soon they became good friends. In the fall of 1948, Glenn enrolled at USC. The next summer, Glenn and Pat were married.

After an injury to both heels which took him over two years to fully recover from, Glenn competed in wrestling for the Los Angeles Athletic Club, winning the junior and senior Southern Pacific crowns and the Far Western Tournament. In 1952, he qualified to go back East for the Olympic Trials but lacking funds and workout partners, passed them up and retired from wrestling. Meanwhile, wife Patty won both events at the Olympic Diving Trials. Glenn went ahead by steamer in time to witness Pat win her first two gold medals at the Olympics in Helsinki.

In 1963, Glenn graduated from USC with a masters degree in education, doing his thesis on the forward 1-1/2 with a full twist. He became the head swimming and diving coach at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, where his team placed second at the nationals, sweeping the diving events with Pat, Gary Tobian, Willie Farrell, Ann Cooper, Gail Benton, Irene McDonald (Canada), Patsy Flowman (Australia) and six others.

What Glenn lacked in experience, he made up for by training his team HARD. Four workouts a day (two springboard, two platform) six days a week. In 1965, Glenn joined United Air Lines and helped his replacement, Peter Daland, coach the Athletic Club and USC, which won the NCAA's, earning Glenn a nostalgic gift, an Elgin watch.

The highlight of Glenn's young career was the 1966 Olympic Trials. Pat again won both 3 meter and platform, Gary Tobian and Willie Farrell qualified on platform, Marley Shriver qualified on the women's 400 meter freestyle team and Glenn was named the women's Olympic coach. Even more amazing was that Glenn and Pat had become first time parents, with a son, Tim, in March of that year, five months before the Olympic Trials.

With the Olympic Games in Melbourne several months away, Glenn coached girls Jeanne Stunyo, Barb Gilders, Pat, and Irene McDonald, who made the Canadian team. The girls worked out together every day and took the first four places in the Olympics. In platform, Pat, June Stover Irwin and Paula Jean Meyers finished 1-2-3 with Pat achieving her famous double double gold medals. She also won gold medals in two Pan-Am Games and some 27 U.S. national titles in her career.

Gary Tobian was the first person to use back and reverse 2-1/2 somersaults from the springboard and platform, under Glenn's coaching. Tobian got the silver medal in both the '56 and '60 Olympics, winning the U.S. platform nationals six years in a row and the 1960 Pan Am Games. 1960 was the year Glenn and Pat had their second child, Kelly. Other young divers Glenn coached in the 1960's were Larry Anderson, Luis Nias de Riveras, Barb McAlister, Linda Cooper, Greg Shuff, Keesel Mills, Ron Smith and Scott Colett.

Son Tim grew up a pretty good athlete too, but didn't care much for diving. He wrestled, played football and set a high school record in the pole vault. Kelly shined in gymnastics before switching to diving at 14. She has won 10 national titles, two Pan Am golds, a silver and bronze Olympic medals in 1964 and '88 and recently was inducted into Ohio State University's Hall of Fame.

By 1978, Pat and Glenn had outgrown each other and separated. Glenn continued coaching divers Jane Ward, Kit Balness, Judy Retlawell, Vicki Shaeber, Debby Lipman, Kelly, Todd Smith and Jeff Huber. In 1979, Glenn and Debby Lipman were married and since then coached together at the Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach. Together, they have traveled far and wide. Debby has won nationals in diving and more recently in tennis under Glenn's unique coaching ability. Their joint diving team continues to perform well.

Story continued on page 13
Memorial service photos on next page

Dear Long Beach City Council,

I'm writing to encourage you to provide your support in making sure that Belmont Plaza pool receives the necessary renovation to remain open and to be restored as a world-class competitive aquatics facility for all aquatic sports, but especially for diving.



By way of introduction, I'm Craig Lincoln, a U.S. Olympian in Springboard Diving (Bronze Medal, 1972) and a 4-time National Diving Champion, whose first national finals appearance was at Belmont Plaza in 1969. In the years following I have appeared in your fine facility several times, both as an amateur and a professional, and perhaps most proudly in exhibition to support of Debby McCormick and her McCormick Divers Club. I'm proud to be a member of the diving community, including icons Sammy Lee and Greg Louganis, that returns year after year to Belmont Plaza to offer our support to support the sport of diving and the work that Debby McCormick is doing with young athletes at Belmont Plaza.

Belmont Plaza Pool is iconic in the world of diving, reflecting a tradition of excellence launched by the late Glenn McCormick and carried on by Debby. Please do everything you can to make sure that Long Beach continues to be recognized as an important center for our sport and for National and International Aquatics, by bringing Belmont Plaza back to its original status as one of the premier aquatic centers in the United States.

The city of Long Beach deserves to regain this recognition, and the McCormick Divers deserve to continue to have Long Beach as their home. Thank you for your kind and determined attention to maintaining Long Beach's Belmont Plaza as a center of aquatic excellence.

Sincerely,
Craig Lincoln
U.S. Olympian
Craig Lincoln

Dear Council Members.

I am writing to appeal to you for the inclusion of diving in the plans for the aquatic facility in Long Beach. As a member of the United States Diving Foundation, as an Olympic medalist in diving, as a teacher, and as a diving coach I cannot adequately express the benefits that the sport of diving makes available to young people. Of course the youth are not the only beneficiaries, but they are certainly one of the richest resources in this world. Diving lends a totally healthy lifestyle to all that are involved, encompassing academic, psychological, and physical realms just to name a few. The change that can occur to challenged, even troubled individuals when they are involved in a diving program is measureable in so many ways.



A few examples are the improvement in the classroom (grades), increased concentration, self-discipline, commitment to excellence, pride in oneself, all of which can lead to an increase in self-esteem. We all know that self esteem is developed in humans, and not something that can be given. The opportunities for a young people to enhance their lives is available through a sport like diving. Please consider that your decisions could positively impact the youth in your community. You see, I teach in a school in Georgia so I have witnessed the impact first hand for students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. It would be so wonderful if Long Beach continued to offer a place where these kinds of transformations are possible.

Sincerely Yours,
Cynthia Potter
NBC Olympic Diving Announcer

Dear Long Beach City Council,



This letter is in reference to the renovation of the Belmont Plaza Aquatic Center. It is my understanding that the current plan for the upgrade of the facility calls for only 2-one meter springboards, thus eliminating the 3-meter springboards and the diving platforms. If this takes place, it will relegate the facility, as far as diving is concerned, to a minor second-class program. The present Belmont Plaza diving facilities are excellent and one of only three indoor complexes on the west coast, with a full complement of springboard and platform equipment.

The Belmont facility has for many years been host to major diving competitions at the national and international levels as well as hosting many local and regional events. The loss of this fully equipped complex for diving will be a huge negative impact on USA Diving's program as well as that of the United States Olympic Committee and its effort to field the best Olympic diving team possible. In addition, valuable income to the city, its hotels and restaurants will be lost.

The McCormick Diving Team has over many years produced great young divers who have gone on to national and international success, and contributed to the USA's Olympic success. With the greatly reduced type of diving equipment being considered, that will not be possible in the future.

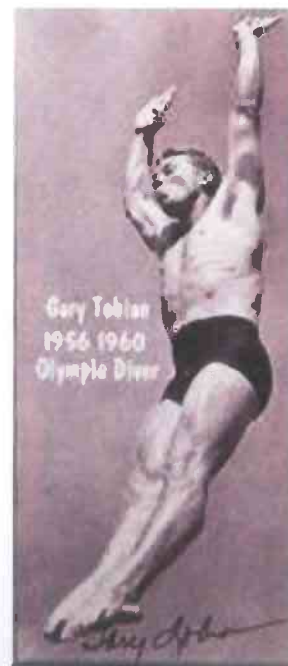
When you consider that there is no government support for Olympic sports in this country, not one dollar, it is extremely important that state, local and collegiate entities support our Olympic efforts. Many other countries, and some of our closest competitors, realistically show that the people are cash poor but Olympic sports training is rich because of government support. In the USA, in many ways, we are cash rich but Olympic sports training poor. Diving is one of those small sports that struggles to survive, even given our illustrious Olympic medal history.

The loss of the excellent Belmont Plaza diving facility will be devastating for the sport of diving as well as the production of outstanding young divers from the southern California area. Many young divers will not only lose the opportunity to obtain a college scholarship but their Olympic dream as well.

Whatever you can do to renovate the facility and maintain the current springboard and platform equipment would be a great boost to USA Diving's and the USOC's efforts to promote the sport of diving and improve our national and international performance.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Dr. Ron O'Brien
USA Olympic Diving Coach
1968-72-76-80-84-88-92-96
Dear Long Beach City Council,



Dear Mr. DeLong:

I am a resident of the state of Washington and represented the Los Angeles Athletic Club and the University of Southern California in the sport of diving while living in Southern California.

My first medal for diving was a Novas Championship held at the Pacific Coast Club in Long Beach, CA. in 1946. My last medals included a gold and silver medal in the 1960 Olympic Games held in Rome, Italy.

The City of Long Beach has produced many International and Olympic Champions including my coach Glenn McCormick and divers such as Pat McCormick, Kelley McCormick and Debby McCormick who is the owner of McCormick Divers.

The sport of diving has a distinguished history of achievements in sport and is one of the most popular and watched sports in the Olympic Games. Our young and aspiring divers need facilities to train and develop their skills. There are very few aquatic pools in California that include springboard and platform equipment (i.e. Long Beach and USC).

It is my understanding that the City of Long Beach is considering rebuilding the Belmont Plaza Pool with out the diving equipment that presently exists. I encourage you to include this needed equipment for the future of our sport.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Tobian



Chad and Sarah King

Dear Long Beach City Council,

My story with dive is pretty simple honestly. My whole life I played football, soccer, baseball and other normal sports like that. They were all a little too boring for me really, football catch the ball and run, soccer pass the ball, run and shoot it, baseball swing at the ball and run, I never really had a huge desire to play them it was just what all my friends did. But then I found dive, at a 2 week summer camp at the Belmont pool that my parents signed me up for. That 2 week camp is where I found the sport I truly love! There's no simple do this, do that, stay in this position, and you'll be fine. It takes skill, it takes you actually having control and power and knowing how to do the dive, not just physically but also mentally, where to kick out, how to kick out, how to spin, how to stop, how to jump and so much more. And even then no two dives are the same, back, front, inward, reverse, twister, and arm stand. In other sports a lot is similar even though it isn't identical. Football; turn this way and catch the ball. Soccer; run here get the ball and pass it. Baseball; catch the ball and throw it to this person. Then there's

dive, so many possibilities, so many ways to mess up. That is what makes the sport amazing. All the little things that require skill is why I love dive. So there you have it. My story, although a simple one it still has meaning in itself. So please, boards? 1 and 3 meter and if you're feeling extra generous I really wouldn't mind having a tower put in either please they really help with getting scholarships. With all of the school cuts no high schools in Long Beach have dedicated facilities or coaching for dive. I need the Belmont pool and McCormick Divers to make my dreams come true of getting a scholarship to college.

Thank you,
Chad King
Long Beach Poly CIC Freshman and Varsity Diver

Dear Long Beach City Council,

My name is Natalie Honda and you may not remember me, however, I recently met you at the Pathways To Independence fundraiser. I graciously witnessed you auction on a piece of jewelry for your wife to help us raise money to educate young women such as myself who have come from an abusive house hold. I want to take the opportunity to personally thank you for doing this to help our organization continue.

I am writing to you not to ask for money, or donations, but to ask you to please consider re-building a diving tower at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool in Long Beach. This may seem minor or mundane in the scheme of what the monetary budget should be spent on in Long Beach, however, this is far from any of these things. As a young girl who came from an abusive house hold characterized by violence, I was given the opportunity to build a family and positive memories at the Belmont Pool. I was successful not only in building these memories and creating positive bonds with others on the team and the coaches, but yet, I was a successful diver on the Junior Olympic Diving team. This alone is not any reason to re-build the diving tower, however, this is only ONE story.

The Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool is a historical landmark not only for Long Beach, but for the Nation as a whole. The Olympics were held in this very facility bringing in millions of people and dollars at that said time. The amazing talent that began with the Olympics has continued throughout the years. Many Olympic divers such as Greg Louganis, Troy Dumais, Justin Dumais, David Boudia, Dr. Sammy Lee, etc. have a long legacy of Diving and attending Diving events produced from this very pool. The Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool is a place of history, legacy, strength, triumph, family, and in my case, a saving grace for many years of my childhood. Now, at age 26, my daughter who is 4 years old is a current member of the McCormick Divers Team and I hope she too can continue to build her positive childhood memories and strength with Debby McCormick (owner of McCormick Divers) and other fellow divers.

As a Nation, we pride ourselves on keeping our children active to prevent childhood obesity and to create positive bonds with peers to prevent bullying, violence, etc. Our Nation as a whole, is constantly addressing these issues. The most positive experience I had as a child was in this very pool. Laughter, that was rare in my home, was readily available between the four walls of that Pool. The smell of that pool alone brings back the most positive memories of achieving a goal, remaining physically fit, and bonding lifelong friendships. I am 26 years old, a student, a loving mother, a survivor, and I still remain in daily connection with my coaches and my team members from over 10 years ago. This Nation is in need of building more facilities such as this one, and not tearing it down because the budget just doesn't permit. This is not about the monetary value of the tower, or the pool in general, this is about the future of our youth, the future of this Nation.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and I hope you take the time to understand the importance of this tower being re-built and how a small amount of the budget going to this project, will bring happiness and laughter, positivity and strength to our youth, that money just can't buy.

Thank You,
Natalie Honda
Former Junior Olympic Diver, Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool



Dear Long Beach City Council,

It has come to my attention that the Belmont Plaza Pool will need to be rebuilt because of damage to the facility. I have also learned that to save money the plan will not include reconstruction of the diving platforms. I'm sure you are aware that Belmont has been the site of many National Diving Championships and Olympic Diving Trials as well as a wonderful training facility for younger competitive divers aspiring to Olympic Fame.

It is unfortunate that decisions are made to eliminate outstanding facilities such as the platforms at Belmont Plaza because our need in the United States is for more diving pools with platforms. An American diver, David Boudia, won the platform event at the London Olympics in 2012, the first time we have won an Olympic medal since 2000. If we want to win more Olympic medals, we must maintain the diving pools with platforms that we have - and build more. I can assure you that China - which has dominated international diving for a number of years - is not tearing down platforms. They are building new ones!

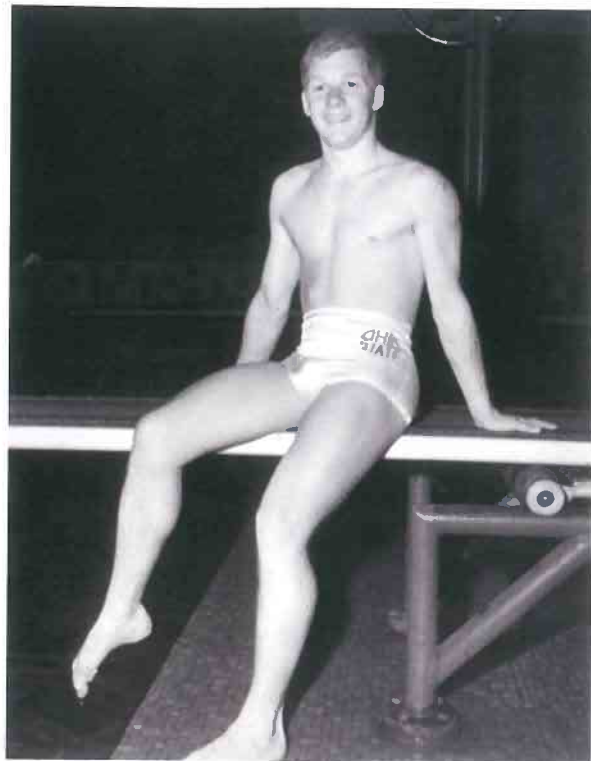
Please consider the pleas of the many American diving people and make every effort to find the necessary money to build platforms in the new Belmont Plaza pool.

Most sincerely,

Bob Clotworthy

Olympic Champion
Springboard Diving
Melbourne 1956

Silver Medal - Platform
Pan American Games
Mexico 1955



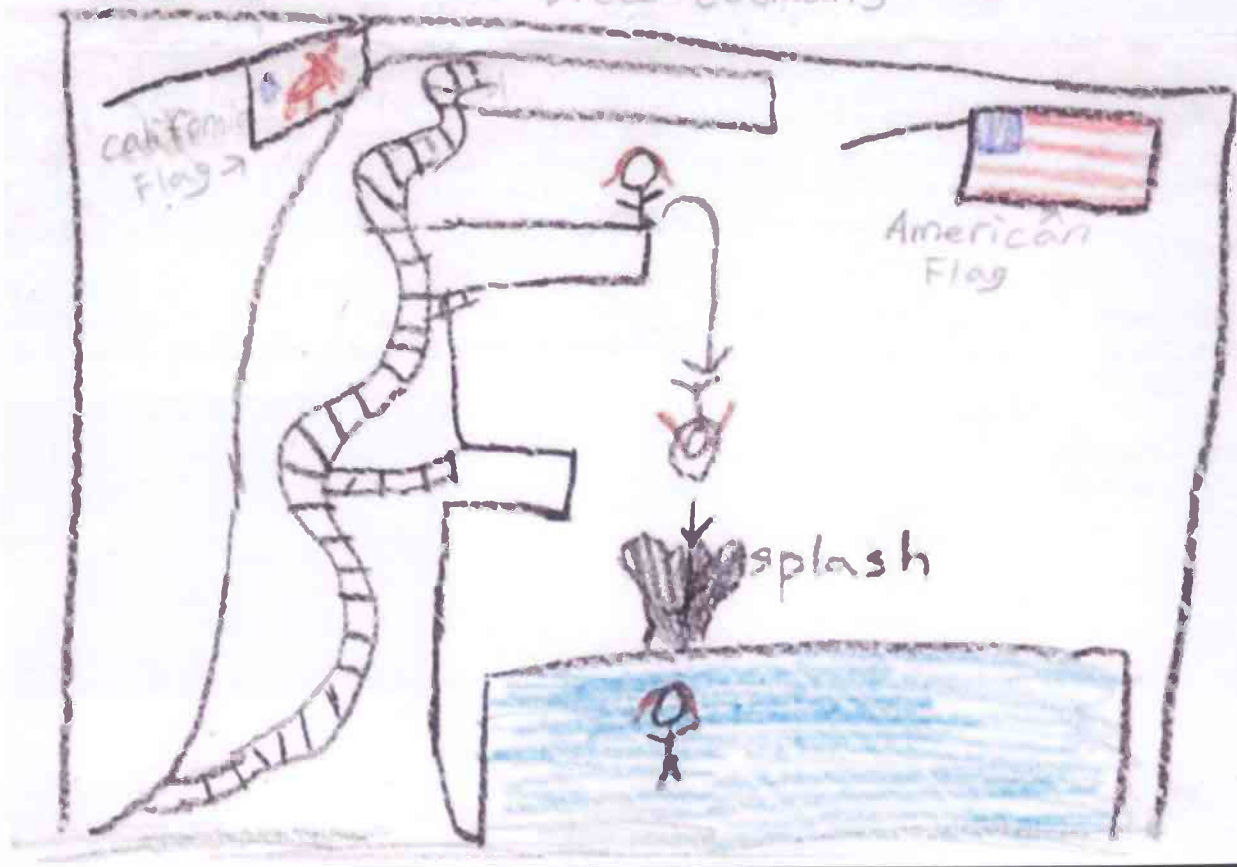
Dear Gary DeLong,

I am a diver on the Moormick divers team. This is a sad time for me and my team because the Olympic pool may not have diving boards and we will be left without a place to dive. If the Olympic pool doesn't have diving boards then I won't be able to dive anymore. I am not a quitter so I hope Long Beach won't quite on me. What will happen to all those kids who love to dive? So can you help me and all those kids who love to

Olympic Pool ↓

dive and get some new platforms and diving boards?

sincerely,
Drew Coomans



Honorary Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Cole Young and I was a member of the Long Beach community from 2009 – 2012. I was an honoree at the 2011 Long Beach Aquatics Capitol of America Banquet for diving.



As a young diver I had the privilege to watch the 2004 Olympic Diving Trials in St. Louis and became especially inspired by the 10 meter platform events. It became my dream to compete on the 10 meter and make it to the Olympic Trials. Unfortunately, the closest diving facility was 3 hours away from my home. For this reason, first for college and later when moving to California, it was imperative that I live nearby an aquatics center with a 10 meter platform.

While pursuing my diving career I qualified for the US National finals 14 times and was a National Champion in the Men's Synchronized 10 Meter Platform. After choosing to move to California and visiting the Belmont Pool my decision to continue my diving career was clear. Over the next several years the Belmont Pool became my home and enabled me to qualify for the Olympic Diving Trials in 2012.

The Belmont Pool was where my dream became reality. The pool has affected more lives than just mine. The Belmont Pool and the City of Long Beach have been home to a successful group of divers and coaches including Olympic Coaches, Olympic Medalists, and National Champions Glenn McCormick, Jeff Huber, Kelly McCormick, Kit Salness, Debby Lipman McCormick, Todd Smith, Kim Stanfield Berbari, and myself. The pool has also been the home of McCormick Divers, the LA 84 summer diving program, and countless competitive and recreational diving events since 1968.

I wish to address my concern regarding the future of the Long Term Belmont Pool Revitalization Project.

A plan that does not include a 10 meter platform will set an underwhelming precedence and strip the city of Long Beach of excellence in aquatics. The proposed 54 million dollar pool will never host Zone, National, or International diving events without a 10 meter platform. These diving events create an abundance of city revenue, jobs and nationwide exposure. An investment of 15% more will match the caliber of the original Belmont Pool. It is an injustice to deny this Revitalization Project the return on investment diving can provide.

Over 40 years ago the City of Long Beach set a precedent by incorporating 10 meter platforms in the Belmont Pool. That legacy has sustained itself and now rests in your hands. Your decision will affect the City of Long Beach for the next 40 years. I challenge you to maintain the standard of Olympic caliber diving facilities in Long Beach.

Regards,
Cole Young

Dear Councilman:

I wanted to reach out to you and express my concern for the plans to rebuild the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool. For more than 10 years of my life, I lived and breathed the, now nostalgic, lifestyle of an athlete at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool. I was devastated when I heard that the plans to rebuild the pool did not include preserving the facilities for competitive springboard and platform diving.

Since I was 8, diving allowed me to grow immensely, both as an athlete and a human being. During my time with the McCormick Divers, I learned valuable lessons, conquered my fears, met incredible people and fought day-in and day-out to become a better diver. Diving at Belmont taught me the importance of dedication, perseverance, friendships and the value of a community. Without the diving program there, I believe that the same opportunities I had will be taken away from many aspiring divers in the area.

I simply cannot express in words what the diving program at Belmont did for me. As an immigrant family, the sacrifices we made to be a part of this team and practice 15 hours/ week for 10 years showed me the value of being humble and grateful. The direction of the incredible coaching staff taught me the work ethic to become a strong competitor. The sweat, blood and tears I put in on a daily basis showed me the benefits of dedication. The success and the failures I had as a diver showed me the value of perseverance. Being part of that team gave me a sense of belonging and an appreciation for the community.

What Belmont did for me did not stop there. When I went to high school at Long Beach Wilson, I became a part of the Belmont Plaza Pool staff. I was a lifeguard, swim instructor and head coach of the, formerly known as AAF, summer diving team for local youth. Through my six summers, I had nothing but very rewarding experiences. Since my years at Belmont, I have graduated from UC Berkeley, where I was recruited to be a competitive diver, and obtained a masters degree from Long Beach State. I now run a successful basketball training company called One on One Basketball, Inc. and provide after school enrichment classes, camps, clinics and a variety of other programs for Long Beach, Orange County and the south bay.

I can honestly say that I would not be where I am now if it wasn't for the diving program at Belmont. The very same life lessons I learned as an athlete on the McCormick Diving team have empowered me to become who I am. Through my basketball programs, I am able to impact the lives of many youth by incorporating important life lessons necessary to be successful both on and off the court. These are the very same lessons that I learned as a diver that not only taught me the keys to success, but also inspired me to be a better member of the community.

I hope that you are able to help keep the diving facilities intact so that the diving programs may continue to positively impact the lives of youth in Long Beach.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Javier Rivas

Dear Long Beach City Council,

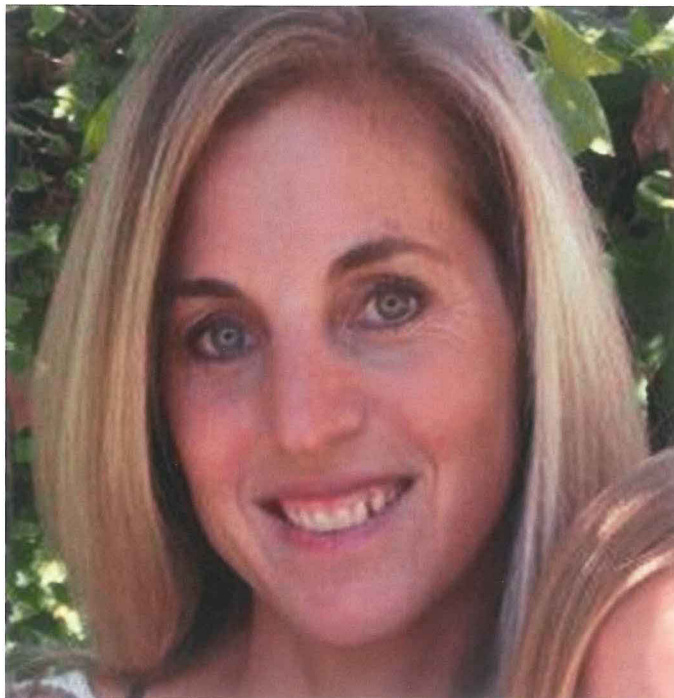
I am writing you in regards to the closing of the Belmont Pool. I want to highly encourage you to PLEASE reconsider this permanent closure as the pool exists now. I am currently a diving parent but was a highly competitive diver for 15 years and would hate to see what closing this pool would do to the McCormick Divers as a team and to the Southern California Diving community.

This pool, although in need of updating, has so much history and potential to be an amazing venue. Being the only indoor facility with a 10 meter platform, it is a perfect place for winter meets, large competitions where weather can deter spectators and filming commercials/movies. Hollywood loves indoor pools for filming and there wouldn't be any other option for them, and I know this brings money to the venue. Updating it would be even more advantageous to attracting Hollywood therefore bringing more money to the venue and therefore the city also.

Long Beach is an amazing area and the McCormick Diving team has a large team. Closing this pool would not only dissolve the team but would cause many potential Olympic caliber divers to quit the sport because the next available team/pool is too far from their home. If my daughters pool was closed and the next closest team was a 30 minute drive, we would have to quit. She loves the sport and she would be extremely disappointed. I am positive there would be many divers from the McCormick team who would do the same. It would be heart breaking. You never know, one of those divers could be the next Gold Medalist in a future Olympic or World competition. Being from Long Beach, that would be a huge boost to the city to have an Olympian. I know that is hypothetical but I would hate to see some kid's dream crushed by this pool closure.

In closing, I HIGHLY encourage reconsideration of the revamp/closure of the pool. We NEED this pool for the sake of the sport of diving. I am sure there is a way to fundraise extra money that it would cost or something like that. PLEASE give it a chance. DON'T CLOSE THE POOL or change it to only minimal diving boards.

Thank you,
Janae Earley
Parent of Crown Valley Divers/Former National Team member USA Diving



Dear Long Beach City Council,



Dear Long Beach City Council,

I understand the Belmont Plaza Pool has been closed and Long Beach is now considering whether to replace it. Long Beach has long been known for aquatics and it would be a travesty to change this concept by not providing your community with the facility it deserves.

My first experience at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool was when competed in the 1968 Olympic Trials as a member of the Phillips 66 Diving Team of Long Beach. Phillips 66 sponsored our diving club that time. I didn't make the Olympic team that year, but Long Beach, with a state of the art facility, was the place to be for swimmers and divers.

A few years later, (1976 I believe) I competed in a professional diving competition, the Grand Prix of diving, at Belmont. We used a mini-board on the intermediate platform and a mini-tramp on the 10 meter. We had to do dives from every level, including a "spotter" on 3 meter. Dick Kimball landed flat from 10 meter on a 4 and a half and had to withdraw. Steve McFarland won the BMW given for 1st place and I won a trip to Hawaii.

Years later I worked there with Henry Winkler (Director) and Scott Baio (actor) on a film made for TV. I was the diving consultant and had to teach Scott Baio to dive off the platform. He was scared to death, but finally went off.

I also worked as a consultant on commercials with diving filmed at the Belmont Plaza Pool. My son Brian was the star in one of them.

As the diving coach at USC for 15 years I attended many college level competitions at the Long Beach pool. It was one of the few facilities where we could compete indoors. I also coached diving clubs at Industry Hills (now gone), Irvine (platform now torn down), and Mission Viejo. As a club coach I also attended many U.S. Diving level competitions in Long Beach. We truly appreciated being indoors at those winter events. It's ashamed how diving platforms are disappearing in southern California. Do realize there are now no indoor 10 meter platforms in California?

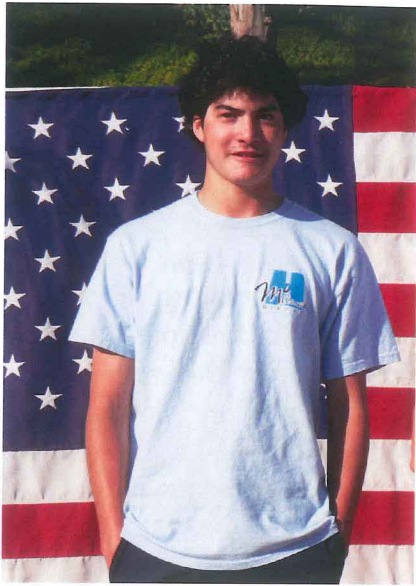
Diving shows and fund raisers put on by the McCormick Divers were lots of fun to attend. Glen and Debby McCormick have provided an excellent competitive diving program for the community over the years. Long Beach should continue to support all aquatic sports by providing an outstanding facility as they have for so many years.

Please continue to support the sport diving and all aquatic sports. Continue the legacy of Long Beach.

Rick Earley

1972 Olympic Team

Retired Diving Coach



Dear Long Beach City Council Members,

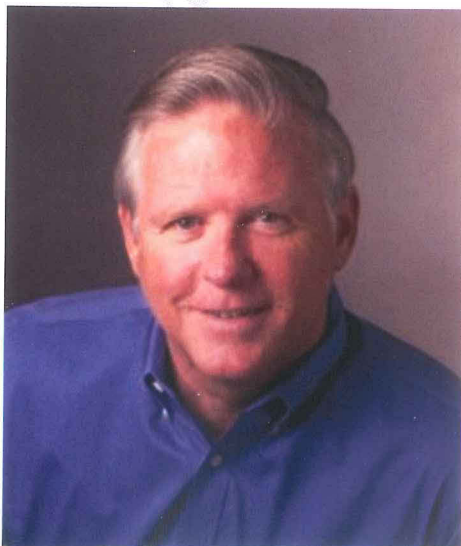
I am a member of the Varsity Swimming and Diving Team at USC thank you specifically to the time I spent training at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool and the hard work, dedication, contacts and never-ending support of Debby McCormick and McCormick Divers.

I started diving at the City of Long Beach summer lessons when I was 6 years old. I loved diving after the two-week class and immediately joined the McCormick Divers Team. I immediately started winning local competitions and had the chance to perform in a dive presentation in honor of the legendary Dr. Sammy Lee. Two years into my diving career, my family moved to Australia. Thanks to Debby's huge network of extraordinary diving friends, I was able to train with the Australian Olympic Coach, Chava Sobrino who had been to Belmont Plaza Pool when he was a diver representing Mexico. I was a top rated diver in Australia winning New South Wales diver of the year for my age group 4 of the 5 years we lived there and winning many titles including a National Championship.

I continued to dive at Belmont Plaza Pool every summer during our visits home. When we moved back to the U.S., I quit diving for nearly two years. Debby stayed in touch with my family and I eventually came back to my home at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool. I met with the USC coach, Hongping Li, my Senior year of high school, but never imagined I would be able to attend. Debby kept in touch with Coach Li and last year this time, he asked for a copy of my first semester grades. Two weeks later, I was accepted to USC with substantial grant and scholarship money including the Lee Brennan Scholarship that is given to divers with good grades and substantial community service work.

I am part of a long tradition of McCormick Divers attending prestigious colleges. Right now, McCormick Divers are also attending UCLA, Stanford, Duke University, UCSD, Wagner College, and Arizona State University as divers and CSULB, and Loyola Marymount that don't have dive teams, but included the dedication of these divers in their acceptance. Over the years, McCormick Divers have attended and dived at UC Irvine, Pepperdine, Northern Arizona University, University of Hawaii and more. Had it not been for Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool and McCormick Divers, many of us would not have the opportunity to attend such prestigious Universities.

I was named to the Press-Telegram Dream Team Twice and finished my High School career as the Sunset League Champion. All of this because I fell in love with the 10 meter platform the first time I walked into Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool in 2000.



McCormick Divers attracts people from cities throughout LA and Orange County specifically because of the indoor diving facilities. It would be tragic to lose these divers and Long Beach based divers to other teams and facilities if the new Belmont Plaza Pool did not support such high quality diving.

Thank you,

Adam Payne

Dear Mr. DeLong,

As a long-time supporter of Diving, I am writing today to express my sincere hope that you will act on behalf of your constituents and fans of the sport by arguing and, ultimately, voting in favor of plans to continue supporting a fully equipped (including platform) diving-well at the Belmont Plaza Pool site.

As a former resident of the City of Long Beach, I represented McCormick Divers for five years. I, like others before and after me, relocated from my home state for the specific purpose of training on platform in an indoor pool. Although later my career path required me to move East, many of my teammates stayed in Long Beach, or the surrounding area, and became loyal Californians for life. As you can see--- we were attracted to Long Beach by the unique combination of the City, the beach, and the **total-package** diving facility.

Furthermore, please consider that Belmont Plaza is an historic site and has hosted a large number of significant national and international aquatic events, many of which were televised promoting the beauty and lifestyle of the Long Beach community. A new or renovated aquatic facility could expect many of these prestigious events to return, bringing tourism dollars and economic impact to the city. With the opportunity to create a world-class facility, that will benefit the citizens of Long Beach and the entire globe, I urge you to make a commitment to excellence and support all aquatic sports equally.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and positive vote in support of diving and the McCormick Divers.

Todd Smith
President
United States Diving Foundation

Dear Long Beach City Council,

Please with the re-build of the Belmont Plaza include the 10 meter platforms and 3 meter springboards. This is an iconic facility in the sport of diving. McCormick divers have been there leading Olympic Diving since 1956.

With the Mc McCormick Divers at Long Beach Plaza, the facility has the ability to be the site for OLYMPIC level competitions for the sport of diving. This would be a huge blow to the city of Long Beach and the sport of diving to loose this world class facility. I am at a loss for words with this news.

Marnie Young, M. A. CAPE
1986 BA Long Beach State
1991 MA Long Beach State
1983-86 CSULB Dive Team PAC 10 qualifier
1983-1992 Member McCormick Divers
1991 Outstanding Thesis of the College of Kinesiology
1998 National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year
2006 State Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year
1986-1996 Professional High Diver
16 Time National Master's Diving Champion
2 time World High Diving Champion



Dear Long Beach City Council,

As a past resident of Belmont Shores, and alumni of the McCormick Diving team, I am writing you to please keep a world class diving facility in Long Beach. A facility with two one meter boards and 13 foot pool depth, is no comparison to the asset currently in play. A 17 foot deep dive well and a 10/7/5 meter platform with at least 2 one meter boards and two 3 meter boards is the minimum of what is needed to keep Long Beach in play as a world renowned diving venue.

Please consider two benefits that come with supporting diving in Long Beach. First is the social value to the community that McCormick diving has, and can continue, to have on the youth of Long Beach. Literally thousands of kids over the years have experienced diving as a sport that builds confidence, work ethics, and as a way up and out of challenging economic surroundings. The McCormick Diving program has put many kids on a college trajectory that would not have come from any other place in their lives. Second, consider the full range of economic activity that this program generates for the City of Long Beach. Directly, there are revenues generated at the pool that defray the cost of operations, parking revenues, and local restaurants that benefit year round--- not just in the peak summer months. Indirectly, consider the diving shows, meets and clinics where people from all over the region and country travel to Long Beach. They fly into LGB, benefiting both commercial airlines and FBO's like AirFlight and Signature Flight Support. They rent cars, stay at hotels, and visit the other attractions in the area, like the Queen Mary.

It is sad to lose the iconic Olympic Plaza pool. But to lose a world class diving venue with all of it's benefits would be truly tragic. Please support a facility that allows these programs to continue.

Best regards,
Jon Real
President
M.S.I. Transportation
8947C Complex Drive
San Diego, CA 92123



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 22, 2005

McCormick Divers

I am delighted to offer my warmest congratulations to all those celebrating the 37th anniversary of McCormick Divers.

Athletic competition takes concerted confidence, skill, endurance and teamwork. As a former professional athlete, I know firsthand the sheer determination it takes to push beyond physical and mental boundaries and reach the top.

I applaud Debbie McCormick for her tireless efforts to carry on Glenn McCormick's legacy of perseverance and triumph. McCormick Divers has taught many adults and children the spirit of true sportsmanship, and I send my best wishes for every future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Arnold Schwarzenegger'.

Arnold Schwarzenegger



Dear Long Beach City Council,

My name is Lauren Skinner. I am 17 years old and I have been diving with McCormick for three years. In my perspective, the Belmont Pool is not only a training facility, but a second home, a tool to reach my aspirations, and a monument that signifies the accomplishments Long Beach as a city and community has achieved.

Before I discovered the sport of diving, I was a full time gymnast. As young girl, gymnastics was my whole life. I loved it more than anything and I dedicated all my time and energy into the sport. I was essentially addicted to the sport and even when I fell ill or injured; I made sure I had enough energy to walk into the gym and workout as if I was 100% healthy. I was forced into early "retirement" by an injury that could not be fixed. I broke my back in two spots which ultimately led to the end of my career. Everything that I had worked so hard for was destroyed and thrown away in an instant. My dreams of competing gymnastics internationally as well as in college were torn and I was stuck with a broken body and a broken dream. I had never lost something I had loved so much and even writing this letter now, the pain still aches.

My parents suggested the sport of diving, and at first I was more than reluctant to try it. Diving was so foreign to me, or so I thought. My first day of diving was at the Belmont pool. I had been in the pool once or twice with friends but now I walked alone, in search of a new passion. The first thing I saw was those huge towers. Then, I heard the slamming of the boards when kids jumped on them. I introduced myself to Debby McCormick and Charly Collins and explained to them my situation. They encouraged that I try it out for one day and if I didn't love the sport then I would never have to come back. I hopped in the pool and took my first lesson. I watched kids and teenagers flip off one meter, three meter and tower and for a moment I felt like was at home. I felt like I belonged here and I could create a new dream that included diving as the ticket to success.

Three years ago, when I walked into the Belmont Pool, I had no idea that the pain I had felt since the day I broke my back would be relieved by the McCormick Dive Team. Three years ago, I could barely do a basic dive into the pool and now I will be diving at a Division I or Division II College in the fall of 2013. As a diver I have been on the McCormick National team, and traveled all over the United States to dive for our team. I can honestly say I love every bit of the pool itself and our team. The Belmont Pool is more than I can ask for as a training facility. We are the only pool with an indoor tower in all of California. The lay out of the boards creates a perfect balance and closeness for synchronized divers. Outside the pool is the beautiful beach with a perfect track to run during practice.

The Belmont Pool has turned into a place to train, create a strong diving team, and allow for dreams to be achieved. All I ask is to take not only my perspective, but the diving community as a whole into consideration when rebuilding this pool. The McCormick dive team has been competing and training at the pool for 44 years and has impacted so many children in the best way possible. Thank you for your time and understanding.

Lauren Skinner

Dear Long Beach City Council,

My name is Mishka Hulka. I am an alum of McCormick Divers, and I now attend the University of California, San Diego, where I have been on the dive team for the past 3 years. Back when I attended high school in my hometown of Huntington Beach, CA, from 2004-2008, McCormick Divers was a big stepping stone into really pursuing my diving career. I first joined my high school dive team at Edison High School in Huntington Beach, CA, when I was just a teensy, weensy freshman. I had never had any exposure to diving before then. Throughout my 4 years on the dive team at Edison High School, I joined McCormick Divers at the Belmont Pool to improve on my diving technique and to take lessons from the coaches (Debby, Charlie, and Hunter). Belmont was a place that I looked forward to going a few days each week, and I felt comfortable and safe with the coaches challenging me to be the best I could be. They pushed me to really step out of my comfort zone. They believed in me, and they made sure I was always performing to the best of my ability, but they were also very understanding and made sure that I always felt safe when I was doing my dives. Even though Belmont was mainly used for swim meets, events, and recreational classes, it had its own little corner just for diving, and THAT was something that meant a lot to me, as well as many other divers. See, diving gets pushed to the side far too often.

"Diving is NOT a sport."

"Divers don't work hard... all they do is sit in a hot tub the whole practice."

"Who needs divers???"

"WE HAVE A DIVE TEAM?!"

These are just a few examples of quotes that I've heard from people... over and over again throughout my last 9 years of diving. And to be honest, it kind of stings when you hear that. I know for me, I work my butt off when I go to practice, and I have had the privilege of being coached by some of the most qualified, dedicated, and passionate coaches around. When I was on my high school dive team, as well as my community college dive team and NOW the UCSD dive team, divers always compete and then the swim team, as a whole, gets our points. Soooo... why hate on divers?! We work JUST as hard as swimmers, AND we get them points towards meets!

I think the new pool at Belmont should include room for towers, DIVING BOARDS, and other various diving facilities. I want other divers who dive for McCormick's (and future dive athletes) to have a space to be able to practice and compete. I want them to have the same sense of community, passion, safety, and love that I was able to experience when I dove at McCormick's for 3 years throughout high school. It played a BIG part in my life to be able to get to where I am today- a STUDENT-ATHLETE on a COLLEGIATE diving/swimming team at a prestigious 4-year institution- UCSD. And McCormick's was a big milestone to help me build my diving career, that has taken me thus far!

So, please, really take the time to consider putting in dive towers, diving boards, and other various diving facilities when re-building the new pool at Belmont. It would mean A TON to me, and to the rest of the diving community.

Mishka Hulka

Finland's Diving Clowns Ready To Jump In Belmont Pool

By Jonathan Van Dyke
Staff Writer

With the degree of difficulty and danger that comes with professional diving, most people would think it's no laughing matter — this weekend that outlook just might change.

The McCormick Divers Booster Club will host Finland's Jerobeam Clown Dive Team this weekend (Aug. 19-21) at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool. The event will serve as a fund-raiser for McCormick Divers, as well as a platform to introduce diving to the public in a fun way, organizers said.

"They do a little bit of every-

**Tiki Festival,
Page 15A
Taste of Brews,
Page 16A**

thing," said Jessica Payne, president of the boosters.

"They're excellent, excellent divers. People think in being funny, you just jump around doing dumb things, but you have to know what you're doing before you do it badly."

While the Jerobeam team has been selling out crowds for years in Europe, Payne said, it wasn't until about four years ago that

they started reaching out for gigs in America.

One of their tapes landed in the hands of McCormick Divers coach and owner Debbie McCormick — whose husband, Olympic and World Games coach Glenn McCormick, had started the club team in 1968. Glenn died in 1995, and the diving team has been a way to keep his memory going, organizers said.

"My goal has been to kind of keep his name alive and make everyone proud to represent it," Debbie said.

At a birthday party, Debbie decided to take a look at the Jerobeam
(Continued on Page 39A)



AND AWAY WE GO. Members of the Jerobeam Clown Dive Team prepare for a synchronized dive. —Photo courtesy Jerobeam

INSIDE YOUR GRUNION

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- Mud Mania Returns / P. 28A
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**Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool on TV Show
"Community"**

Dear Mr. DeLong,

As the Founder of three successful New York State Corporations, one of which was a large Swimming and Diving Complex in Rochester, New York I am well aware of the position you are facing - THE BOTTOM LINE.

Please do not overlook the possibilities of generating **new** and additional INCOME if the Belmont Plaza Pool continues to have diving towers. Just the monies that can be generated from competitive **diving** events, **for all ages**, can be monumental to the bottom line. You have the opportunity to make this pool a 'home' for DIVERS and a financial success as well as serving the community you have been elected to serve. We had the largest Age-Group Diving Team in the East and **collaborated with other countries** (Canada, Finland and Germany) which raised our income considerably. Belmont Plaza Pool could collaborate in so many ways with others and bring additional income to the whole community and as a renowned pool of excellence would attract attention world wide.

Our youth deserve this consideration and our elite divers deserve and need all the help we can give them, to compete against other countries.

Sincerely,

Betty Perkins-Carpenter, PhD.
Olympic Diving Coach for the Country of Turkey
Montreal Olympic Games, 1976

Dear Council Member DeLong,

I strongly encourage you to rebuild the diving facilities at Belmont Pool including the platform.

My daughter grew up in Long Beach diving at the Belmont Pool. The availability of the diving facilities and club close to home was instrumental in her development as a diver in both high school and college. It is imperative other local divers get same opportunity.

Belmont Pool is known throughout the swimming and diving world and the loss of diving would diminish its reputation and that of Long Beach.

Please rebuild the diving boards and platform.

Robert Wishner (formerly of Long Beach)
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

REAL ESTATE OFFICES OF
Eberle Company
18101 Von Karman Avenue Suite 330
Irvine, California 92612-1010

Dear Councilman DeLong and Colleagues:

Congratulations to your Staff on efforts to bring forth the Belmont Plaza rebuild as [specified in Exhibit "C"](#) below. When the City Council members approve the \$50,000,000+ budget for this endeavor it will be a continued testament to their appreciation of aquatics in the Long Beach community.

This week for the first time since Belmont Plaza was built some 45 years ago, the current City Council members have an opportunity to move forward on this site with another legacy project as past City Council Members have successfully done with tourism's nearby Queen Mary and the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. Belmont Plaza "rebooted", like the Long Beach Grand Prix, will serve to enhance the attractiveness of Long Beach as a destination site and contribute to the economic impact of overnight visitors in the Long Beach Economy.

For example, the Los Angeles Sports Council reported that in 2004, U.S. Olympic Trials-swimming in Long Beach resulted in an economic impact of \$15 million for the City. Additionally, the National Association of Sport Commission (NASC) reported that the recent 2012 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials provided Federal Way, Washington 3,818 Non-Local Attendance with a direct spending of \$2,285,621 including 7,483 Total number of room nights totaling \$972,775 Direct Hotel Expenditures and \$687,204 Direct Rental Car Expenditures. The 198 Non-Local Visiting Event Participants elevated Direct Spending an additional \$373,626. Total Direct Spending by Event Spectators, Visiting Event Participants and other Non-Local sources amounted to Direct, Gross Spending of \$3,316,812 from just this one event. The sport of diving has several other events throughout the year.

I am hopeful that when Staff is given the opportunity to continue their fine work, they will discover that a World Class Aquatics Facility serving the Community of Long Beach along with the Competitive and Master's Diving, Synchronize Swimming, Water Polo and Swimming Communities will exceed all economic and non-economic benchmarks.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Take Care,

Steve (former diver)
Steve Eberle MBA, CCIM, LEED AP
Commercial Real Estate innovation since 1985

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Julie Butler and I have been a resident of this great city for almost 44 years. My husband has also lived here the majority of his 44 years and has also been involved in the sport of diving for more than 2 decades. As a high school and college dive coach he has worked with some of the greatest athletes in the sport and watched as many of his divers have received full scholarships to universities, won state championships, national championships and even participated in the Olympic trials. All of this was made possible by Debby McCormick!

My husband, Shane, began his diving career at Long Beach City College and McCormick Divers. It was because of McCormick Divers that he was able to participate and place in the NCAA national championships and continue his diving career as a coach based on the experience he had with Debby and Glenn McCormick beginning in 1990. McCormick Divers has existed as long as Belmont Pool has existed and is therefore a part of the history of the pool and Long Beach. The two are truly synonymous and to take that part of the pool away will surely detract from the city.

My 12 year old son has recently found his passion for diving and as I watch him and the other divers practice I see a great potential for many of these boys and girls and young men and women. There have been many national champions and Olympians come out of Belmont Pool and McCormick Divers and it would be a travesty to take that away from these young people who have been given this talent and ability and to also take this away from our great city. I ask that you reconsider your position and take a look at this great sport and all that it brings to children, families, the city of Long Beach, the county of Los Angeles and the great state of California!

Kindly,

Julie Butler

I was happy to hear that Belmont pool was going to be rebuilt but saddened to learn that it would not have platform diving availability. My daughter is now on a college scholarship because of diving she did at Belmont for the last 7 years. She would not be where she is now if it weren't for that pool. It kept her busy, gave her great friends and made her an athlete. Without her diving scholarship to college we may not have been able to send her to college. Now she is in New York having the time of her life and breaking many college records her first year in college. This is all due to McCormick divers of Long Beach.

We have been so proud to say she is from Long Beach California. Everyone in the North East Conference knows the diver from Long Beach, California. Please do not destroy a historical figure such as McCormick Divers and Belmont by creating a minor swim pool for the community. There are not enough pools to promote diving and this is a shame. Ask anywhere in Southern California if they have heard of McCormick divers of Long Beach and they will know them. The positive notoriety the city obtains from its divers goes from *coast to coast*, please do not destroy this.

Sincerely

Mary Curry
Parent of a Diver from Long Beach, California Belmont pool



Erica Curry now diving at Wagner College in Staten Island, NY

Dive in the clowns

By Greg Mellen, Staff Writer
Posted: 08/19/2011 09:34:53 PM PDT
Updated: 08/20/2011 12:56:45 AM PDT



The Jerobeam Clown Dive Team of Finland put on a diving show Friday at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool before an appreciative audience. From the top of a platform, a clown chugs bottles of Coke after eating M&M's candies as a balloon falls up under his costume. (Scott Varley / Staff Photographer)

PHOTO GALLERY

LONG BEACH - It's tempting to say the debut of clown diving in Long Beach was a flop. Or landed with a splat.

Which, really, is what the frantic sport is all about. So, in that sense you could say it was a big splash.

Eight divers from Finland, who make up the Jerobeam Clown Diving troupe, performed a variety of falls, tumbles, dives and stunts, many from atop the 10-meter platform at Long Beach's Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool.

There were clowns on bikes, skis, sleds and even on fire in an event it is safe to say is unlike anything the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool has ever seen.

Most of the audience of about 500 for the first of three weekend shows seemed to enjoy the frantic antics.

Desaree Briles came with four children - Julia, Bradley, Dillon and Baylee Briles - and said they all enjoyed the show.

Bradley enjoyed the clowns on fire, while Dillon said he liked the clown who went off the platform on his bicycle.

Bradley then agreed that the bicycle was the best.



The Jerobeam Clown Dive Team of Finland put on a diving show Friday at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool before an appreciative audience. A trio of clowns fall during a skit. (Scott Varley / Staff Photographer)

Dive in the clowns -
Press-Telegram
<http://www.presstelegram.com>



Osmo Meskanen, who was one of the founders of the group in 1968, said he was thrilled with the reception of his clown brigade.

Although Meskanen no longer dives, he was kept busy filming the event.

"My heart is swelling, my tears are coming," Meskanen said. "This is fantastic."

The divers, too, were thrilled to get the opportunity to perform in the U.S.

"We're very excited," said Sami Silgren, who goes by the nickname of "Tarzan from the North Pole." "The U.S. is the place to do shows."

A former competitive diver and American-style football player, the burly Silgren said, "I'm going to do all the big splashes."

He didn't disappoint, opening with a belly flop from the top platform.

Juuli Pekka, who does a tightrope walking bit, has been with the group about five years.

He said the troupe does about 15 shows a year, primarily in Finland and Europe, mostly between September and December.

Jerobeam has done exhibitions at the European Diving Championships the past four years.

For all its madcap mayhem, clown diving is serious business.

When plunging off the equivalent of a three-story building, even if it is into 17 feet of water, there is no room for error.

Each of the Jerobeam divers is skilled with years of training.

"About half used to be divers and half were stuntmen or other craziness," Silgren said.

Two more days of "craziness" are scheduled today and Sunday, before the Finnish troupe returns to Europe.

In addition to the clowning, there will be a diving demonstration by members of the McCormick Divers and synchronized swimming by the Meraquas team from Irvine.

The event is a fundraiser for the McCormick Divers nonprofit school.

Depending on the response, the clown troupe hopes to return to Long Beach. Meskanen said the troupe is also negotiating to do a performance at the U.S. Olympic Diving Trials in 2012 near Seattle.

greg.mellen@presstelegram.com 562-499-1291

Clowning around

What: Clown diving

When: Today, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.

Where: Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool, 4000 E. Olympic Plaza

Admission: \$10

(cash at door)

Information: clashofthecrowns.com



SAVE THE EIGHTH OF APRIL FROM BEING WASTED



Dear Long Beach City Council,

I have been a part of McCormick Divers since 1990. I decided to train with McCormick due to the facility and world class coaching. Growing up, I drove an hour to and from Long Beach every day just to train at an indoor facility. The pool gave me a stability that I did not have in my life. The pool turned into a second home and a second family. I grew up in a dysfunctional home and did not have much direction. Debby McCormick became my mother in many aspects. She always had an open ear, guidance about school, and most of all, I knew she loved me. Having that stability allowed me to have confidence as a kid that transitioned into my adult life.

Training from 1990-1995 full-time, I received a scholarship to Northern Arizona University. Without the help of Debby and the facility, I would have never been able to go to college. During those four years, I came home on every break and summer vacation to train at Belmont. I competed Division I NCAA and qualified for national team trails all four years. In 1999, I eventually became "Male Diver of the Year" for Division I NIC conference. After graduation, I went on to teach high school history and obtain my master's degree. I continued to train in Long Beach till 2005. I was awarded the head diving coach position at Whittier College in 2004. In 2012, I joined the coaching staff at McCormick Divers and love working with the kids.

Diving in Belmont with the full facility gave me an opportunity to become successful. Debby created a positive and open atmosphere that gave me direction in my life. Without the pool and positive attitudes, I would not have the career, home or success that I have today. A world class diving facility in Belmont would be beneficial to future generations. It allows for structure and positive reinforcement that many young kids today do not receive at home. The pool allows for people of all ages to participate in a sport that is ageless. People from 5 to 80 can participate and enjoy the benefits of great exercise. Take into consideration that McCormick Divers and the pool is not just about a sport. McCormick Divers and Belmont gave me direction and can give future leaders that same priceless direction.

Sincerely,
Larry Neberman

9 February 2013

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Nanci Taylor and I am the head coach of Taylor Diving in Australia. I am also the former coach of 3 Olympic Divers. I am writing this letter in support of rebuilding the diving well at the Belmont Pool.

As a diving coach in Australia I cannot believe that after the US did so well in last year's Olympics that a city council would not upgrade a diving well, especially one that has produced many great divers who have represented the US at international competitions.

By not including a diving well in your "rebuild" plans you are limiting revenue for the city. How you may ask? Let me give you a couple examples;

1. No pool hire revenue for team training practices (which includes pool entry)
2. No revenue coming in for local, state, regional, zone, national or international competitions that could be held if there was a diving well (regional, zone, national and international competitions can bring in very big bucks for the city in hotel, restaurant, tourist attractions and taxes)

Debby McCormick is highly respected in the international world of diving and it would be a huge loss to the city of Long Brach to lose her and her team.

I truly hope that you will reconsider the current plans and include a diving well (with towers) in your rebuild plans.

Kind Regards,

Nanci Taylor

Nanci Taylor, owner/head diving coach Taylordiving

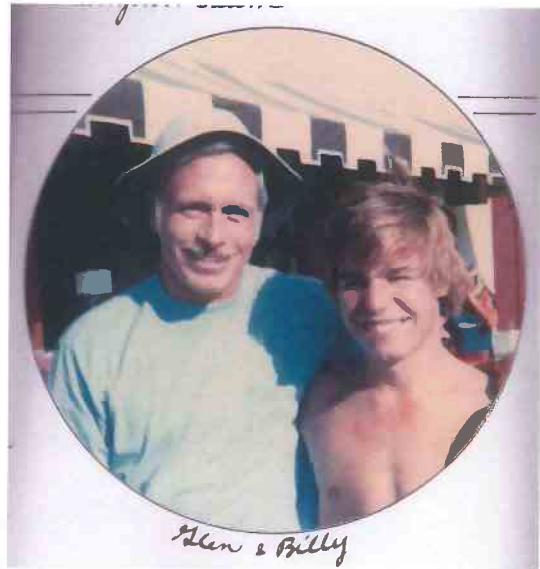


McCormick divers: Save the Diving Well

As a member of McCormick divers since 1973 I have been fortunate enough to see and be a part of the great history Belmont Plaza Olympic pool is all about. I trained there five days a week for five years and saw some of the greatest athletes come through those doors and some not so great. All came with a purpose, some to train or compete some to simply get off the streets, some came to escape their troubles what ever they may have been. For some like myself those days spent at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool are some of the best memories of our lives. Training at Belmont Plaza helped me achieve a full scholarship in Diving to any school of my choosing. After watching The Univ of Tennessee win the NCAA Championship at Belmont Plaza in 1978 I decided that is where I would to go to school. Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool has helped shaped so many lives and probably even saved a few. I

have seen this myself and experienced it as well. It would be a complete travesty not to continue the great history this Diving facility is all about. I have seen so many great athletes come through the doors but one athlete really stands out to me and that was the late great Wilt Chamberlin (Basket ball Hall of famer). He would come by occasionally to watch the divers train. When we met he told me how amazing he thought Divers were and he thought they were some of the best athletes around. He also mentioned how fortunate we were to have such a great place to work out, Belmont Plaza. I will never forget meeting such a great sport Icon and his great appreciation of the sport of Diving. What a amazing history this Diving pool has, unlike any other. It is amazing to me that this kind of history may have no future. Please keep this facility going for the kids, for the future Olympians, for all that have and will continue to benefit or perhaps even been saved, this is home to so many. Please save our pool/home

Sincerely ,
Billy Day
(former McCormick Diver Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool)



Dear Mr. DeLong,

The purpose of this e-mail is to request that you reconsider the plans for the new pool and diving facility at Belmont Shores. Only having two one meter diving boards and a pool 13 feet deep will make it virtually impossible to run a quality diving program like McCormick Divers.

Diving is a fantastic sport that provides many opportunities for our youth. For those kids who like the thrill of flipping and spinning it provides a great opportunity to stay active, in a sport that teaches discipline and the ability to focus. In addition, diving is a sport in which many of its athletes are able to continue through college. The McCormick divers, each year, place divers into top colleges like USC, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Stanford, Air Force Academy, BYU, Wagner and Duke, just to name a few! The skills the athletes learn through diving help them to be successful in college and in life. Since top college diving programs need to be competitive in 1 meter, 3 meter springboard, as well as platform, taking away the 3 meter springboard and platform facilities at Belmont Shores will make it unlikely for top colleges to recruit divers from the Long Beach area. This would be a great disservice to the youth in your community.

My husband and myself are two individuals who greatly benefited from diving with the McCormicks at Belmont Shores. We met while diving for the McCormicks, fell in love, and have now been married for over 20 years. In addition, we were both from economically challenged families. Because of diving, my husband received a full scholarship at UCLA, a school he would have never been able to attend otherwise. I was able to attend Stanford University where I was an NCAA All-American athlete.

To me it seems incomprehensible that at a time of increasing childhood obesity and lack of activity by our youth that we would take away any opportunities to pursue a sport which is lots of fun and provides great opportunities. Diving is not a sport where you peak in your teenage years or a sport where it is nearly impossible to compete at the college level. I trained with the McCormick Divers until I was 27 (even while I was in graduate school at UCLA) and my husband continued diving at the National level until he was 30.

The sport of diving is making a great comeback in the United States as evidenced by the multiple medals won by US divers at the last Olympics, including a gold medal in men's 10 meter platform. Your plans will force the McCormick Divers, a great powerhouse in US Diving, out of Long Beach. What a sad day that will be for your community.

Kind regards,

Sharon Real

Sharon Real, Ph.D.
Vice President of Product Development
Tracon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
8910 University Center Lane, Suite 700
San Diego, CA 92122
sreal@traconpharma.com

Dear City Council:

My name is Alvin Spencer. I am writing you in regards to the plans for rebuilding the Belmont Plaza Pool. The plans that are currently laid out do not take diving into consideration. The Belmont Pool has provided a place for divers to train and compete for nearly all the 50 years it has been open.

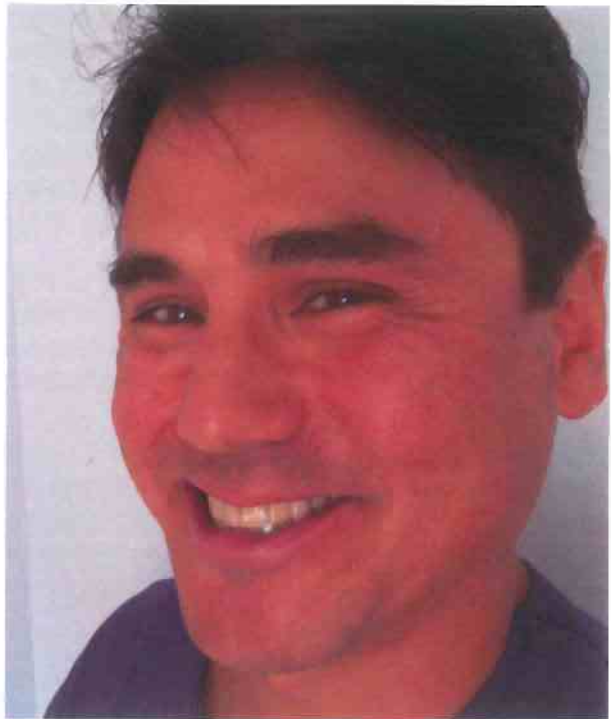
I am from Alaska and went to Long Beach in 1981 to train at Belmont. I trained there with McCormick Divers from 1981 to 1984. My window of time is small in relation to the many years the pool was open. During those few years my team mates included someone from Australia and Hong Kong as well as Californians of course. Also during the summer people came from all over the country to train at Belmont. I remember some divers from New Zealand training with us at one time.

I am one of many people that trained at Belmont. My training efforts awarded me with a 1/2 scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. After which I performed in diving shows throughout Europe for four years. I then returned to coach at the University of Alaska-Anchorage for 3 years until the swimming/diving program was dropped.

The conference championships for the University of Alaska was held at Belmont Pool each of the years I coached.

The impact and positive influence that Glenn and Debby McCormick and the Belmont Pool has had on my life has been immeasurable. Also the influence I have contributed here in Alaska is due in large measure to the existence of the Belmont Pool.

I share my deepest sentiments with the council to please include provisions for diving when rebuilding the pool. The impact goes much farther than most people realize, especially for those not involved in the sport of diving. As I pointed out earlier—the impact reaches across the country and to various parts of the world.



Dear Sir,

Re rebuild Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool.

My association with the McCormicks goes back over 30 years. I am a former coach of New Zealand diving teams and was the 1984 Olympic Games coach for New Zealand in Los Angeles. During that time our team had a number of training sessions at your pool. Further to that over the course of many years we have had dive teams stop over in Los Angeles and set up a training camp enroute to other competitions.

In recent years the Glen McCormick Memorial meet has become a significant dive meet on the yearly diving calendar.

I am unable to comprehend the decision not to include diving facilities in the rebuild of the pool and I have to question your decision based on the following:

- (1) The publicity your pool has received with the McCormick divers – Olympic medallists.
- (2) The loss of a fun facility for the public.

Regarding (2). I pool attended for many years at two pools; Mt Wellington Swimaramma and at the Henderson Aquatic Centre both pools being in Auckland, New Zealand. As well as being a pool attendant, I was also a Physical Education Teacher at High Schools for over 30 years so I can speak with experience regarding public pools and diving facilities. **The most used facility by members of the public when the diving facility was open for the public was – yes the diving well.**

I am questioning your decision if it has been made in the interests of not just the diving teams that reside there and the many teams that visit but also in view of the fact that diving facilities attract members of the public and are used by members of the public as a fun facility. I would therefore urge you to consider your decision and think about the fun side of diving facilities that are used by your clients – the public as well as the dive teams.

Yours faithfully,

Dennis Gear.

Selector for New Zealand Dive Teams.

Technical Advisor for Diving New Zealand.

Member of appointments panel for the Board of Diving New Zealand.

It has only been a short amount of time that my daughter, Makenna, has been diving with McCormick divers. However, it has been life-changing for her! She found a beautiful awe-inspiring sport that takes your breathe away! She found a coach that is firm, but fun-Debby McCormick! Debby's love for the sport and the kids is undeniable! It did not take long to find that in the Diving Community, Debby is a super star! She not only knows everyone associated with diving, but she is loved and adored by so many!! People admire her and like to be generous in her direction because of her life experience diving herself, her winning personality, her fine character, her passion for this sport and her LOVE for these kids! She tirelessly is committed every day to give her best to these kids.

One day my daughter got in the car after a diving practice and said, "I BELONG!" She finally felt like she found a place where she fit in! My heart leapt!! I knew exactly what she meant. It has been as if we entered into a magical world that we did not even know existed. It is enchanting to watch!! These kids are so brave, so disciplined, so graceful. It blows me away to watch what they fearlessly do under Debby's guidance.

Makenna's life took on a new direction. Her self-esteem shot up. She got in incredible shape. She dreamed big, beautiful, diving dreams, she made friends, she competed in dive meets, she absolutely glowed!!!! One day we were at Belmont, the next we were informed it was closed. Next, we heard that they would make a decision about whether to rebuild or repair. Then, we learned it would not be repaired, but rebuilt. After the meeting on Wednesday evening 2/6/13, we learned that the plans to rebuild included nothing about a platform for divers. This was devastating news.

On Tuesday 2/12/13 council members will vote on this matter. It all seems so quick and it feels as if the council members could not possibly understand what a missed opportunity it would be to exclude diving from the Belmont facility. Mission Viejo has platform diving which prepares future Olympians. North of Mission Viejo, Long Beach the closest place that offered Platform diving. Now the travel time will be impossible for divers in this area to try to find a place to practice routinely.

It comes down to money and the added expense for construction. That is just numbers. If the city decides to direct money to include diving in the new facility it will be wonderful – however it is just money. It will not be a miracle. The miracle already exists and her name is Debby McCormick! Her gift of coaching, athleticism, passion for the sport and love for these kids IS A MIRACLE! She has already helped countless kids be placed in colleges with diving scholarships. She is definitely coaching champions and likely future Olympians. All of these up-and-coming kids' hopes and dreams may be squashed to bits this Tuesday if people's voices do not reach city council members before they vote on Tuesday.

I am just a Mom. I know I have clumsily babbled on trying to describe what I have witnessed. I obviously have struggled to try to get across the point that I have experienced something beautiful, rare, awe-inspiring, something so lovely that has touched me so deeply that I just want to shout at the world, "PLEASE SUPPORT DEBBY - YOU WONT BE SORRY!!!!"

Thank you,
Michelle Falsken

To Whom it May Concern,

I recently heard of the closing of the Belmont Pool due to structural damage and also heard that although the facility will be rebuilt, the diving pool and boards will not. I find this decision sad and unfair to a group of people who use and need this service.

I am a deaf person and found, through diving, a place where I could build strength, speed, balance and accuracy. I found I could conquer my fears and get mentally tough. Once I conquered the platform, my life changed. I felt I could conquer anything. I could do this in a place where I didn't need my ears, instead, all I

had was the calm and quiet. To me, the most important part of diving is mental. Unlike other sports, the quiet was perfect for me and gave me positive insights into my own deaf world.

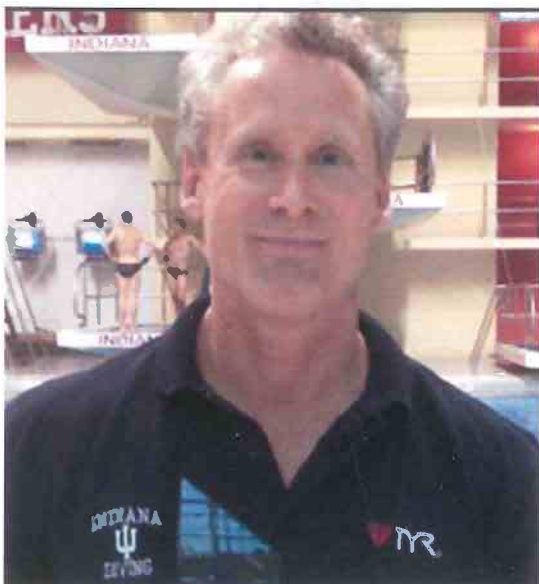
Every time I frequented Belmont, I was inspired by the thought of diving in the very spot where Olympians trained and practiced. Besides it having historical value, it is a wonderful place for local kids to find a LOVE for diving. In today's world, kids don't necessarily have a chance to try something fun yet challenging. Diving helps kids overcome their fears and keeps them in shape.

Diving benefits the club and keeps the pool open by drawing more people to the facility and keeps locals from moving to other facilities that do offer diving. McCormick Diving keeps the sport fun and keep affordable.

Please reconsider rebuilding the diving facility. I would hate for Long Beach to lose this piece of history and the opportunity to help our youth strive in a sport that can change the way they view themselves and their lives.

Thank you for your time,

Sam Olson



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly urge you to include a full diving facility in the plan to rebuild the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool in Long Beach.

From my experience in planning and overseeing the construction of an Olympic quality swimming and diving facility here at Indiana University, I know the importance of having a bold vision for the future and constructing a facility that will serve the needs of many now and for years to come. Once a facility is built, there is no going back. Every facility that I can think of that was planned by bold visionary leaders has stood the test of time, continually serving the needs of all community members and benefitting the community in many diverse ways unseen during the initial planning stages.

As I former diver who practiced and competed at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool, I can attest to its impact on my development as an athlete, person, and future collegiate and USA Olympic coach.

Sincerely,

Jeff Huber

Jeff Huber, MA, MEd, PhD

Head Diving Coach Indiana University

U.S. Olympic Coach 2000, 2004, 2008

USA, NCAA, USOC, BIG TEN Coach of the Year

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Part-Time

www.indianadivingcamps.com



**McCormick Diving Coaches
Charly Collins, Cole Young, Debby
McCormick and Jackie Jones**

SALE

Dear Long Beach City Council,



My name is Clark Pitti and I am 17 years old. I used to dive with McCormick divers. Diving has since become my favorite sport and I will always appreciate my time with McCormick. Diving is an extremely valuable asset to our community and gives people the opportunities of a lifetime. Diving is one of those unique sports. I feel it would be detrimental to our local community to take away diving facilities at Belmont. It would effect so many people. Diving is valuable, it is a great sport for young people to be involved in because you get to demonstrate your individual talents and abilities. You get to experience things you would never see or do in any other sport. I went to New Zealand and got to travel all around the USA. I made so many friends and had so many life experiences. Debbie was a great coach and the divers are all like one big family. I feel it would be rude for our local politicians not to consider the value of the diving facilities specifically, also to consider taking away a team that has been in the community since 1968. Diving is a sport that shouldn't be forgotten and we need to make sure it doesn't. The facilities at Belmont hold so much history for the sport and great memories for individuals as well. To get rid of all diving facilities would be an extreme let down for the community and countless individuals. The McCormick diving team would be hit hardest having to find a new permanent pool to call home. There are not very many deep pools with 10 meter platforms around locally and it would be very difficult for this team financially and emotionally to have to find a new place to permanently dive. I ask that you take into serious consideration rebuilding a dive facility at the Belmont shore location, consider the tole it will take on countless people in the Long Beach and Orange County area. Please build new diving facilities at Belmont and realize the impact it will make.

Thank You.

Long Beach City Council,

It seems strange that I have easier access to diving platforms from Columbus, IN than I would have in Long Beach, CA.

With the pool of talent that springs from southern California, and the accompanying great weather you enjoy, you should have an endless flow of diving champions. However, this cannot happen for you without the facilities.

Our current Olympic platform champ was raised in a small Indiana town, and educated at Purdue (which has another set of platforms). Proper facilities make a big difference.

The McCormick Divers and their coach, Debby McCormick, are respected and admired in the diving community. The Belmont Plaza pool is famous in the diving community throughout the world. Please support whatever renovation is necessary to retain your historic facility.

Sincerely,
Jim Everroad

Quote from Sammy

Glad your team is growing! No one is dead when they leave footprints on your heart forever. Sammy & Roz

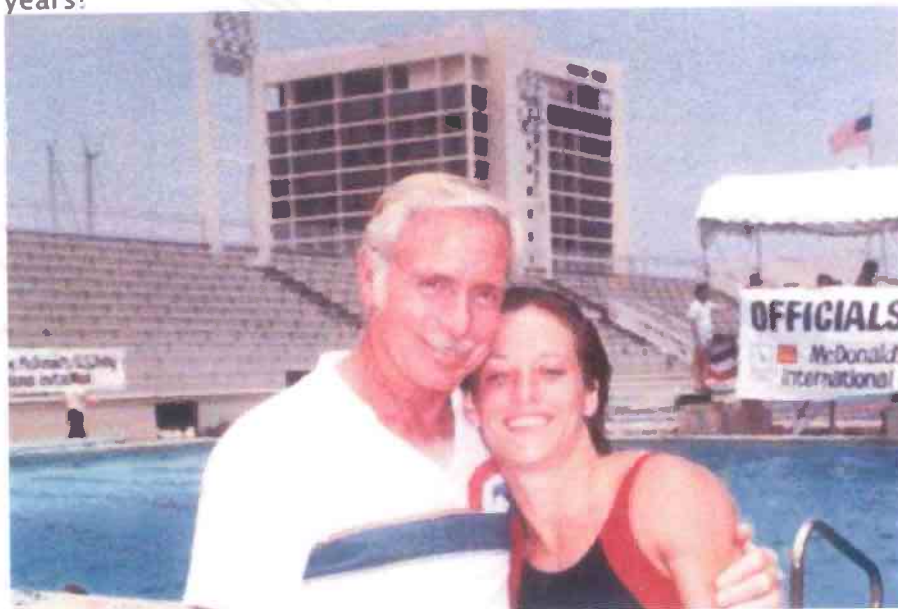
Nice comments on face book

Debby McCormick

October 21

Today is the anniversary of Glenn's passing. Cannot believe how many years have gone by. This is one of my favorite pictures with Kelly and her dad.

We always shed a few tears and are grateful for all of the wonderful years!



My name is Sarah Madden Beaudin and I am the 3rd generation of Madden's born and raised in Long Beach. My maiden name may sound familiar to you as my grandfather, Joe Madden, and my father, Philip Madden, were both prominent figures and attorneys in the Long Beach community dating back to the early 1900's. My uncle, Patrick Madden, currently serves a judge for the Long Beach Courthouse of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

I am writing you to implore you to save the Belmont Plaza Olympic Diving Well and Platforms. Not only am I a Long Beach native but I am also the product of the diving program and Debbie and Glenn McCormick at the Belmont Plaza.

For almost 20 years I trained at Belmont Plaza under the McCormick's world-class coaching. I began as a little girl but by the time I retired from diving I had achieved many accolades, awards, scholarships and life experiences in the sport, including:

- California State Champion on springboard and platform, several consecutive years
- CIF Champion (1981-85)
- Age-Group National Platform Champion
- Age-Group National Springboard Champion
- Age-Group and Senior National Finalist, several consecutive years
- World Age-Group Champion and Finalist in New Zealand, Germany, Mexico and Canada
- Senior National Team Member from the age of 16
- Represented the US National Diving Team in England, Mexico and Canada
- Youngest diver in 1984 Olympic Trials
- Full athletic scholarships offered at every university that had a diving program

Indoor platforms are extremely important to the diving community for many reasons. If you watched any of the diving events in recent Summer Olympics in London you may have heard how divers use "spotting" techniques to help them know where they are in a dive in relationship to the water. The spotting divers use in an indoor pool can be much different than the spotting techniques used in an outdoor facility due to lighting, the sun, a roof, etc... It is important for divers to have access to indoor platforms for them to be able to compete well in competitions that take place indoors. It goes without saying, if the Olympics are taking place indoors, Olympic divers will want to train in an indoor facility to prepare.

David Boudia's gold medal on 10M platform in the London's 2012 Olympics (an indoor facility) ignited the sport of diving with a new enthusiasm. Diving programs across the country received an influx of fresh, excited kids wanting to learn this dynamic and beautiful sport. This is how all Olympic dreams are started regardless of the sport. Losing the Belmont Plaza's diving well and platforms would be devastating to the Southern California diving community as well as the broader US diving world.

Our diving friends and family across the United States are watching and waiting to see what Long Beach will do with the famous and infamous Belmont Plaza Pool! Please do not destroy this Southern California diving institution. You must rebuild it, complete with a diving well and platforms, so young divers can train with excellent coaching, realize their dreams and walk through doors of experience and opportunity as I was able to 20+ years ago!

Sincerely,
Sarah Madden Beaudin

First,

Let me introduce myself to you, my name is Russell Caplan, I was born in Long Beach in 1960 at the old Harriman Jones Hospital at Broadway and Cherry Ave along with my brother and sister, which now is a Rite Aid pharmacy. At the corner of Broadway & Cherry Ave where the Historical plaque is on the building, there is a picture of a boy sitting, having a chocolate soda with the lady that ran the soda fountain, Miss Gracy! The boy is me. We all grew up in long beach and my mother still lives in the original house near the Traffic circle. My siblings and I all went to Wilson HS and the Belmont pool was where my High school Prom was held. All of us will call long beach our real home and as kids, swimming in the Belmont Plaza pool was our outing of choice. It was always a challenge to see if I could get through the water spray at the entrance to the pool, such fun.

Fast forward, now I have a High school daughter that dives there knowing that history where I am from. Chatting with the folks that are part of the Diving community love the feel of the pool and I must say, love my stories I tell them about the pool. The Diving and swimming competitions that have graced the fine facility are numerous along with the memories of Long Beach Ca. This would not be the place I grew up without the Belmont pool nor my daughters. Long Beach had a vision for this facility when it was built and it should continue, just with a new modern face.

Losing the Belmont Plaza pool would be a huge hit to the Aquatic sporting world but to Long Beach. Many cities have embraced the building of world class Aquatic centers and to their credit, very successful. This pool brings many events and revenues to the greater Long Beach area including Hotels, restaurants, and local hangouts to name a few. The Belmont pool is woven into the fabric of Long Beach and should be rebuilt to define Aquatic excellence. The Swimming and Diving competitions from world class athletes will come to the and Long Beach will be rewarded by its efforts. " Build it and They will come" to quote a line from "Field of dreams" how true that statement is.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, your consideration is much appreciated by all.

Russell Caplan

*Tech Specialist / Scientist - 3
San Onofre Nuclear Plant*



I live across the street from Belmont plaza and was proud to have coached for the McCormick divers during most of the 2000's. I have been coaching diving for the past five years at the Rose Bowl Aquatics center in Pasadena, but continue to live in my neighborhood of Belmont Heights.

The diving program in Long Beach is historic and I'm sure you have many emails about what Long Beach has meant to the sport of diving. While I agree with all the things you must have read, I want to offer a unique perspective on the world of aquatics. I understand the cost of building a fully functioning pool is high, and the cost of running a pool is also high, there are pools that run in the black and actually make a profit. Rose Bowl Aquatics Center is such a place. I encourage you to contact the executive director at the RBAC, Kurt Knopp to see the possibilities our model has to offer.

For a few highlights... we have an annual operating budget of over five million dollars. Our swim lessons program did close to 1.3 million this past year. Our diving team, and swim team run in the black, and we offer a comprehensive summer camp program that could easily be replicated in Belmont shore. We have gone under comprehensive renovation his past year, and will still net close to \$300,000.

If Long Beach strives to be the Aquatics Capital of the World, you cannot disclude diving. Diving needs a place in long beach, and Long Beach needs diving. If you think long term, the temporary pool that has been discussed is half the difference between a fully functioning pool, and a less than world class facility. Look to the Rose Bowl model and there is success there.

Thank you for your time,

Hunter Shafer

I write to ask you and your city council to consider the option of providing training and competition opportunities for the Olympic Sport of Springboard and Platform Diving.

As you know, the Belmont Pool in long Beach has immense historical value to the sport of diving. The history and number of elite individuals that have benefitted by having the opportunity that facility created are too numerous to mention.

Being the only adequate indoor facility in California, has allowed you to host the PAC-12 Swimming Conference Championships (and its predecessors) for many years. Because of the configuration of space, diving has always had to go off-site. This opportunity to rebuild one of the great sites in the Western Region would not only benefit the many people of your city, but could become a home to future diving championships, well beyond the Conference Meet I have already mentioned.

Currently looking for homes are the Pac-12 Diving Championships (being held in Federal Way-diving is there annually), NCAA Zone E Championships (annual event, currently held in Colorado Springs as it is the only other indoor facility with a full complement of equipment and availability in the region), both men's and women's swimming and diving NCAA Championships (the destination is favorable, and runs over two weeks every March), USA Diving's Indoor Senior National Championships, JO West National Championships, JO and SR Zones, JO Regionals, AAU Nationals, and a bunch of local meet championships that can be organized and run by your local club.

Tom Stebbins
UCLA Diving
www.uclabruins.com





Hello...

We are parents of high school and club swimmers and divers. It saddens me that you have forgotten what occurred just 8 months ago, The London Olympics. WE as a nation were proud to be Americans watching David Boudia do the impossible on the 10 meter platform, Winning GOLD for TEAM USA!

I ask you, where did this Olympian begin? In a pool, being curious to TRY something new, challenging and being able to represent the United States of America! He grew up watching one of our own Southern Californians, Greg Louganis win Gold and he too had the opportunity to be a role model for millions of children when he too brought home Gold on the 10 meter platform for the US.

As a community of parents we are willing to enroll our children in aquatic programs, have them participate in competitive meets in hopes to have them represent the US, California and Long Beach as they too could bring home Gold.

Some interesting facts to share with you: Did you know we travel to East Los Angeles College for Junior Olympics? Why, because it is one of the fastest pools in the nation! It's depth and design has allowed our swimmers to break national records and achieve recognition for our country. Did you know that Riverside community college has one of the best diving facilities in the state? With platforms and training equipment necessary for divers to perfect their dives to also represent the US! Here in Long Beach, we could have it all! We could be the "Aquatic Capital" of the Nation if you design the facility with forward thinking in mind!

When you cast your vote on Tuesday, we urge you to think about how proud you would be knowing you were a part of creating an aquatic facility for our future Gold medal Olympians.

Thank you. Go Team USA

Reiko and Nathan Bliss



Belmont Plaza Dive Coach and Long Beach Olympic Hopeful, Cole Young in VISA Commercial at Belmont Pool



McCormick Divers late 1980's



**David, Sammy, Greg- 3 Olympians
At 2012 London Olympics
All 3 have used the Belmont Plaza
Olympic Pool 10 Meter Platform**



Natalie Honda- Diving Platform 2003

1973

1973



1973

Divers in 1973

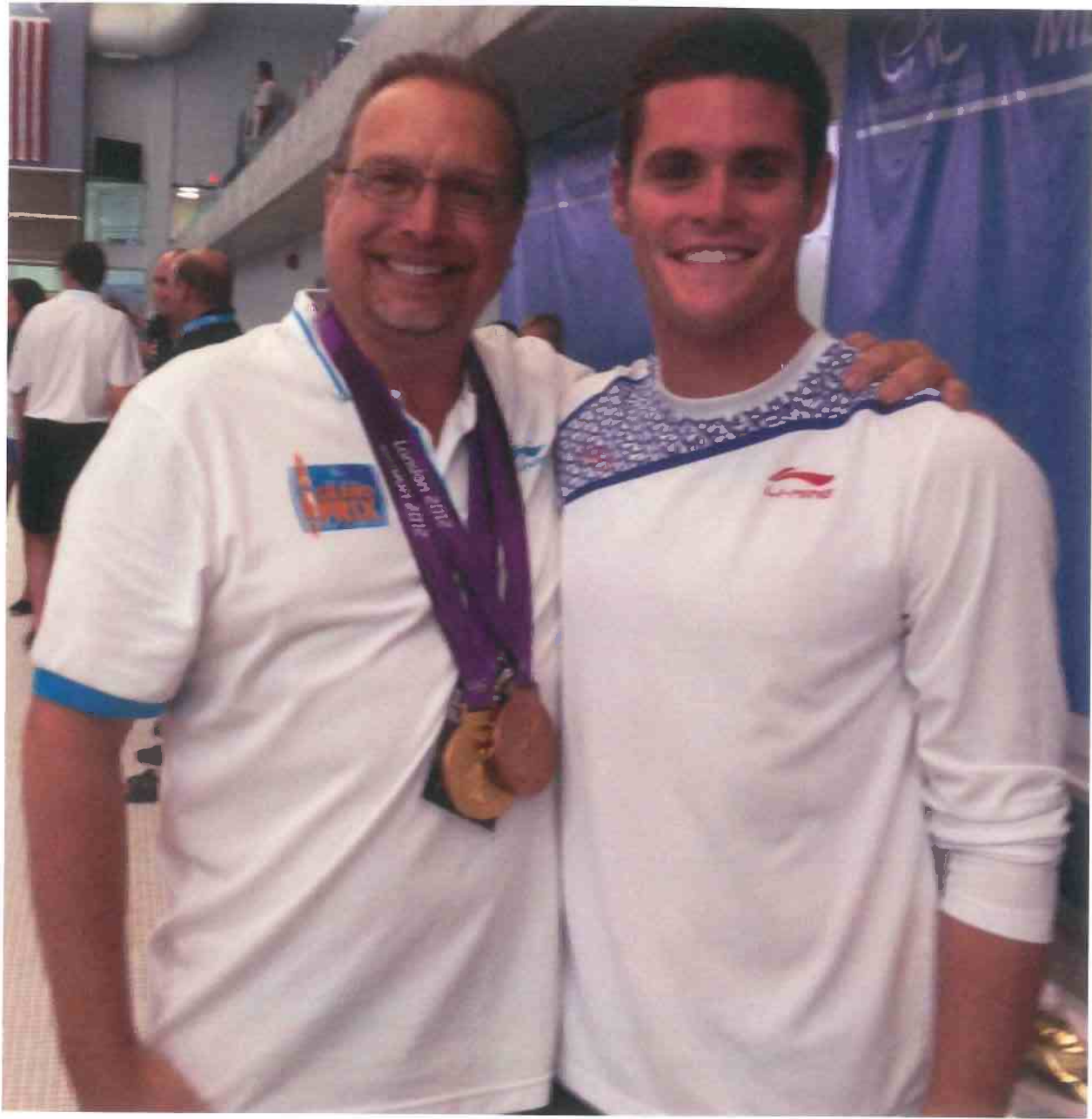


George Wilson – 1988

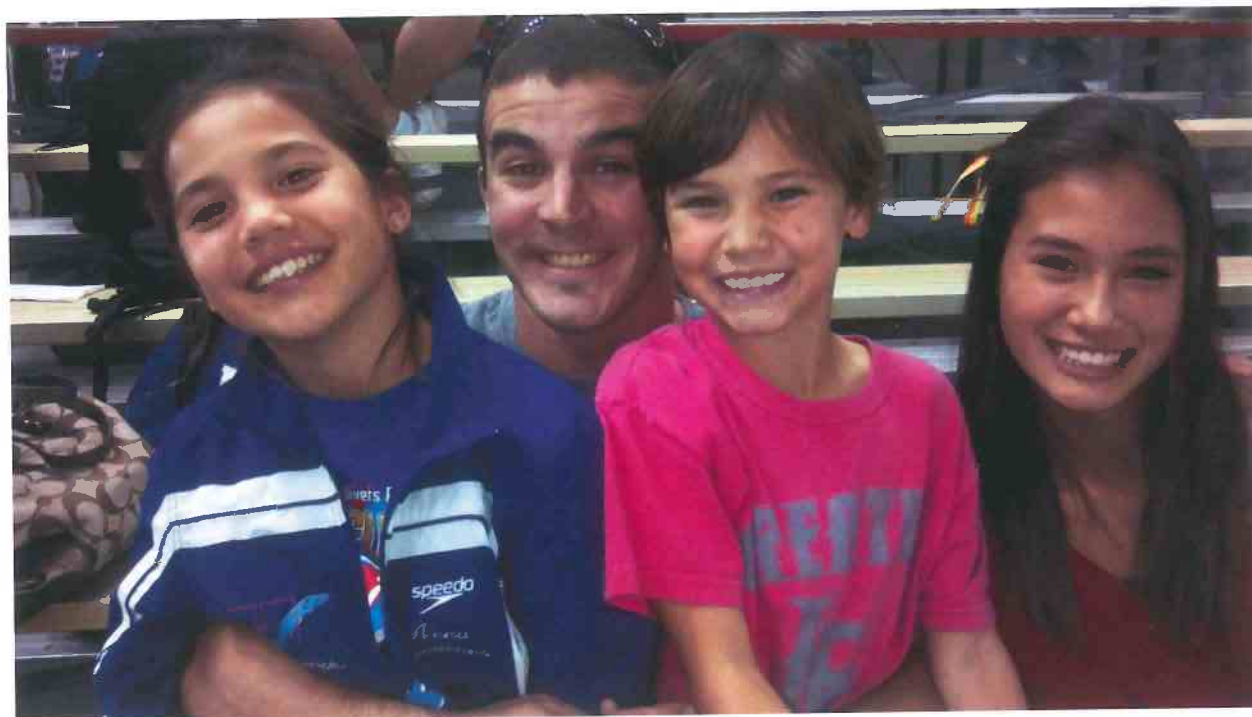


Brooklyn diving at age 4





**David Boudia- Olympian
Was at the Belmont Pool for a VISA
Commercial shown previously**

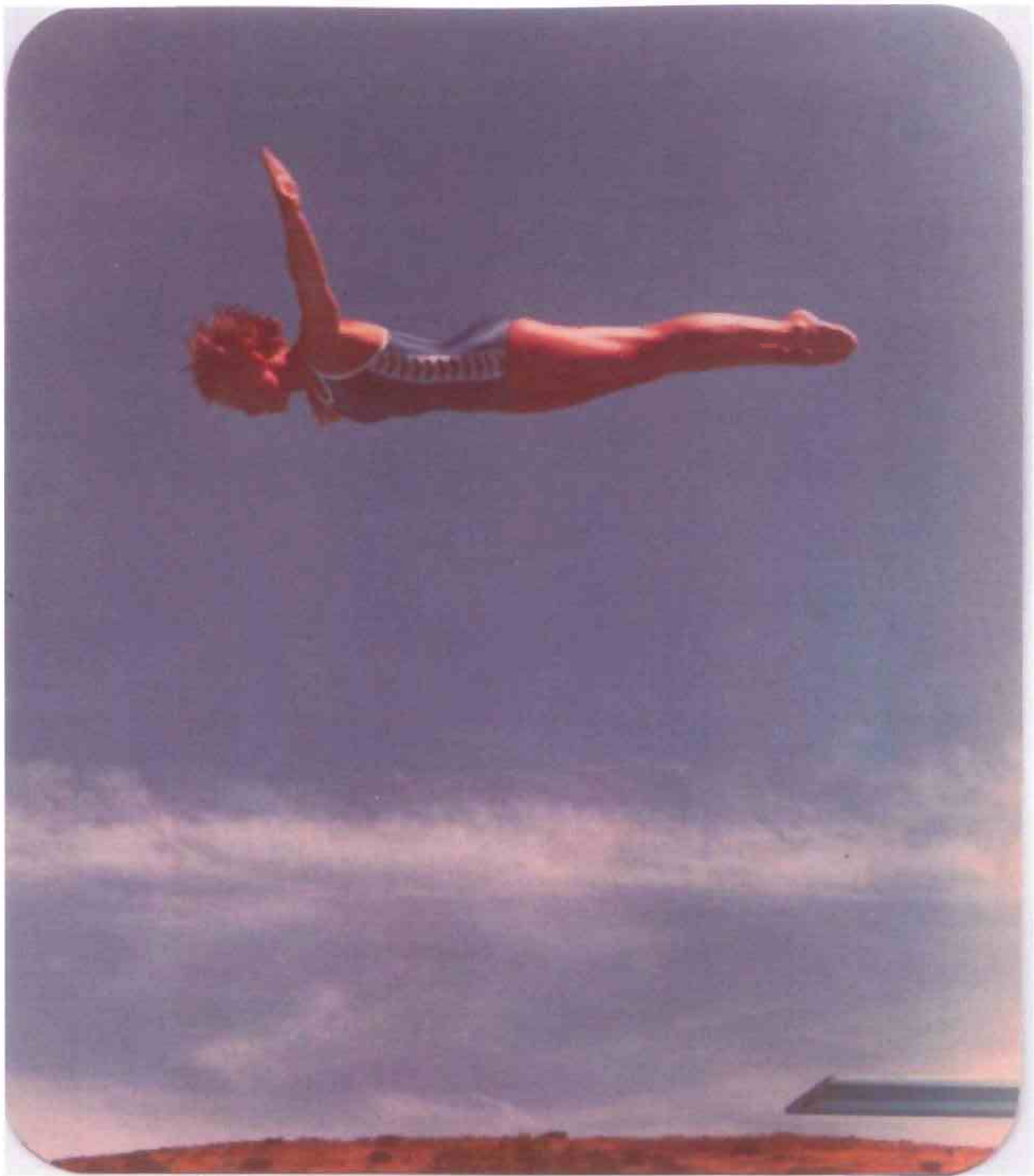


**Ann and Drew Coomans and Keri
Erkman with coach Cole Young at
Annual**

**Glenn McCormick Memorial
Invitational Dive Meet**



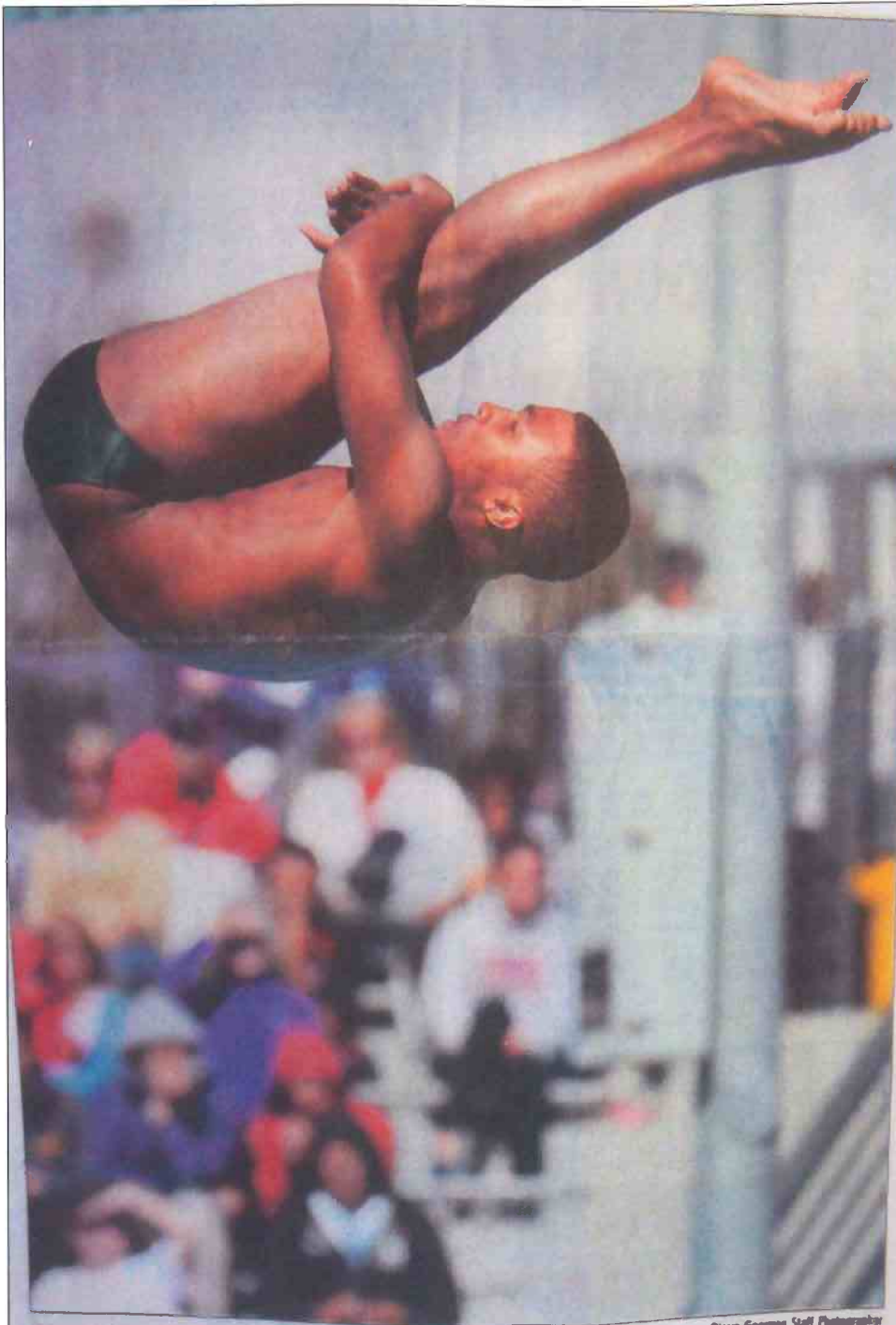
**Dr. Sammy and Roz Lee,
Glenn and Debby McCormick**



**Sue Knickerbocker from Canada
trained with McCormick Divers at
Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool**



McCormick Divers 2012 Team



Title again belongs to Reid

PREP SWIMMING: Poly diver wins at Masters Meet for third consecutive year.

By David Falton Staff Writer

IRVINE — Another year, another Masters title, another meet record.

Poly High junior Deon Reid proved once again he's the best diver in the Southern Section by winning at Tuesday's Swimming and Diving Masters Meet at the Woollett Aquatic Center. Reid defended the Masters titles he won as a freshman and sophomore, and broke his own meet points record for the second year in a row.

"It feels really good," Reid said. "It's kinda surreal. I surprised myself."

Reid finished with 404.00 points, smashing the record of 378.20 he set a year ago. Newport Harbor's Clay Pinckney was second at 379.45 and El Toro's Mark Anderson finished third (346.20).

Reid's best effort of the six-dive event was his fifth, a front $1\frac{1}{2}$ tuck off the three-meter board. He scored 75.60 points — the second-best single dive of the competition — and essentially put the meet away.

"I felt really good about that one," the CIF-SS Division II champion said.

Los Alamitos' Adam Payne finished seventh with 257.00 points and St. Anthony junior Nyko Bodnar was eighth at 251.60. Bodnar won the Division IV title last week and improved on his 12th-place Masters finish last year.

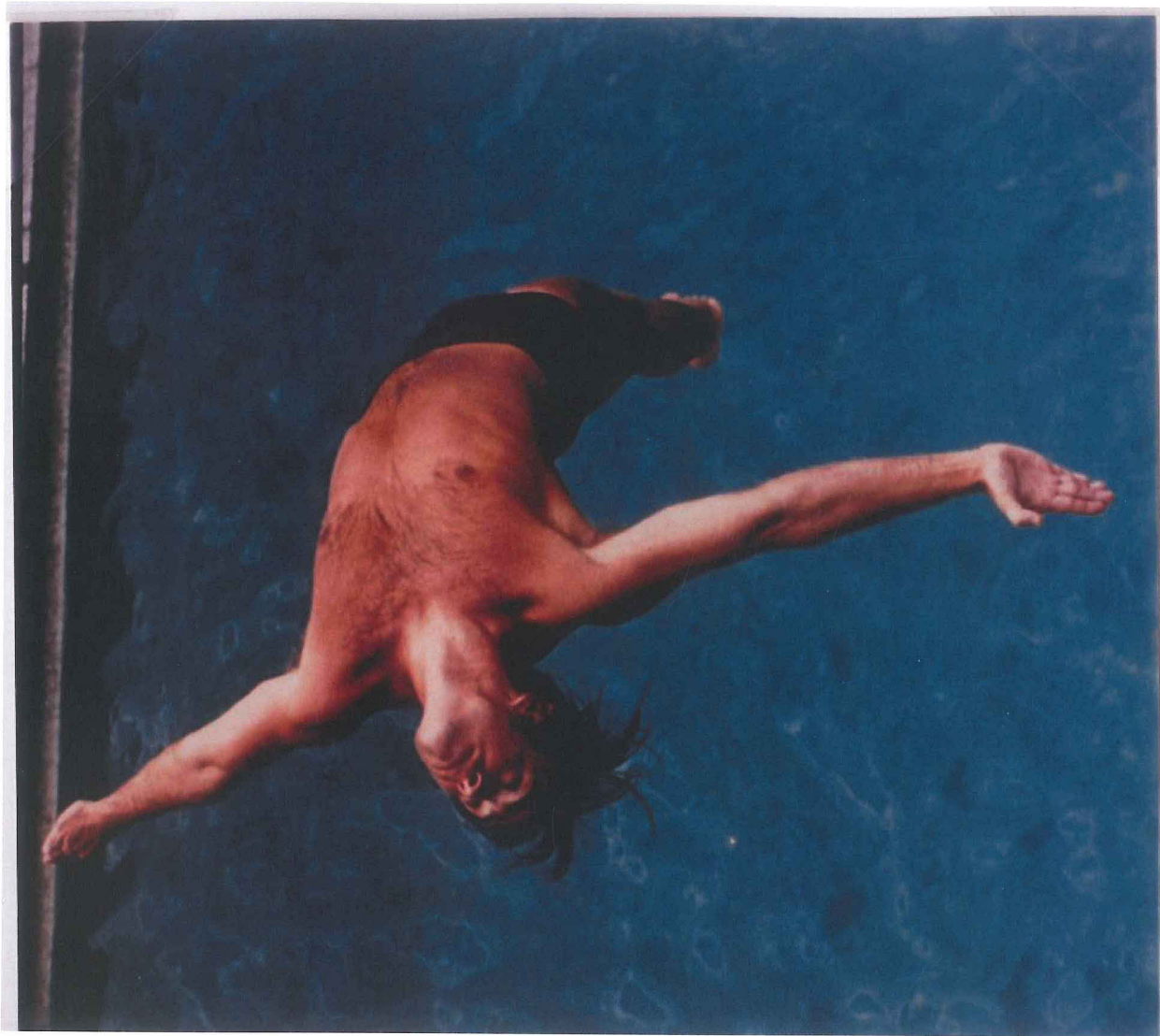
Reid opened with a front $2\frac{1}{2}$ pike off the one-meter board and received four scores of 9.5 to jump quickly into first place. He followed with scores of 44.40

Steve Georgan Staff Photographer

Poly's Deon Reid performs one of his dives en route to taking the CIF-SS Masters diving championship.

SWIMMING 88

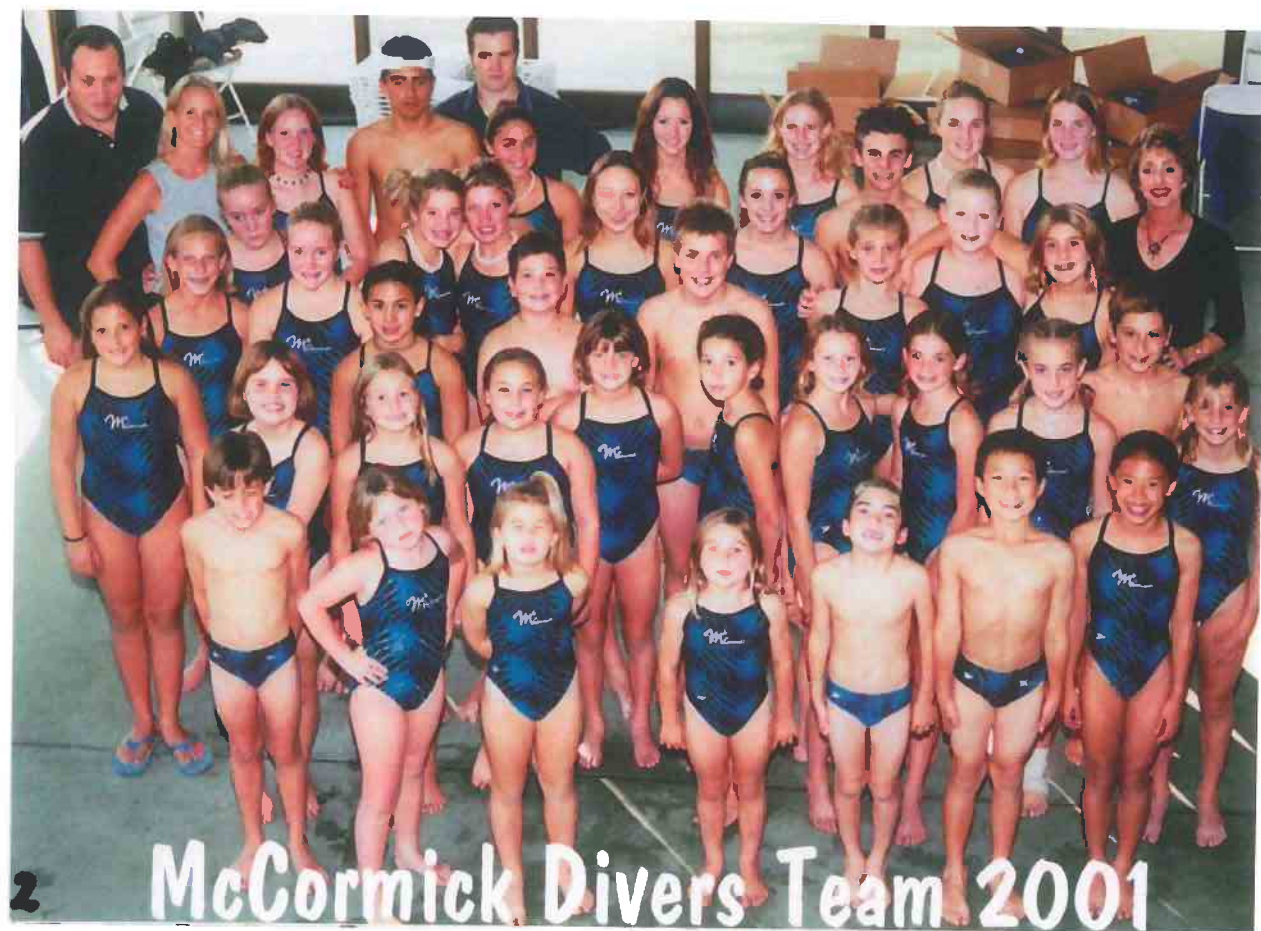
McCormick Diver wins CIF Masters Again



**Greg Shuff diver with McCormick
Divers in the 1960's**



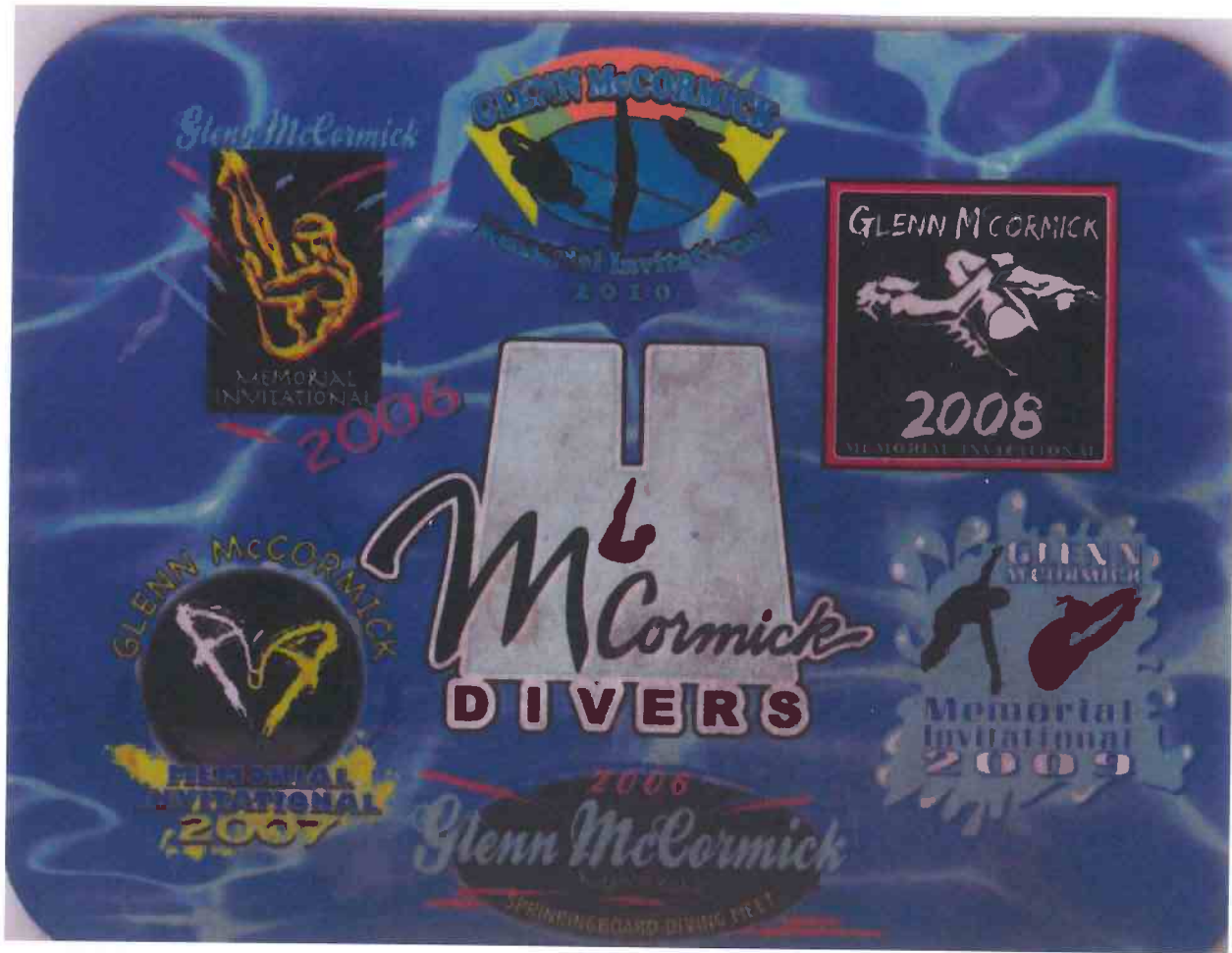
McCormick Divers last Team Photo with Glenn McCormick.



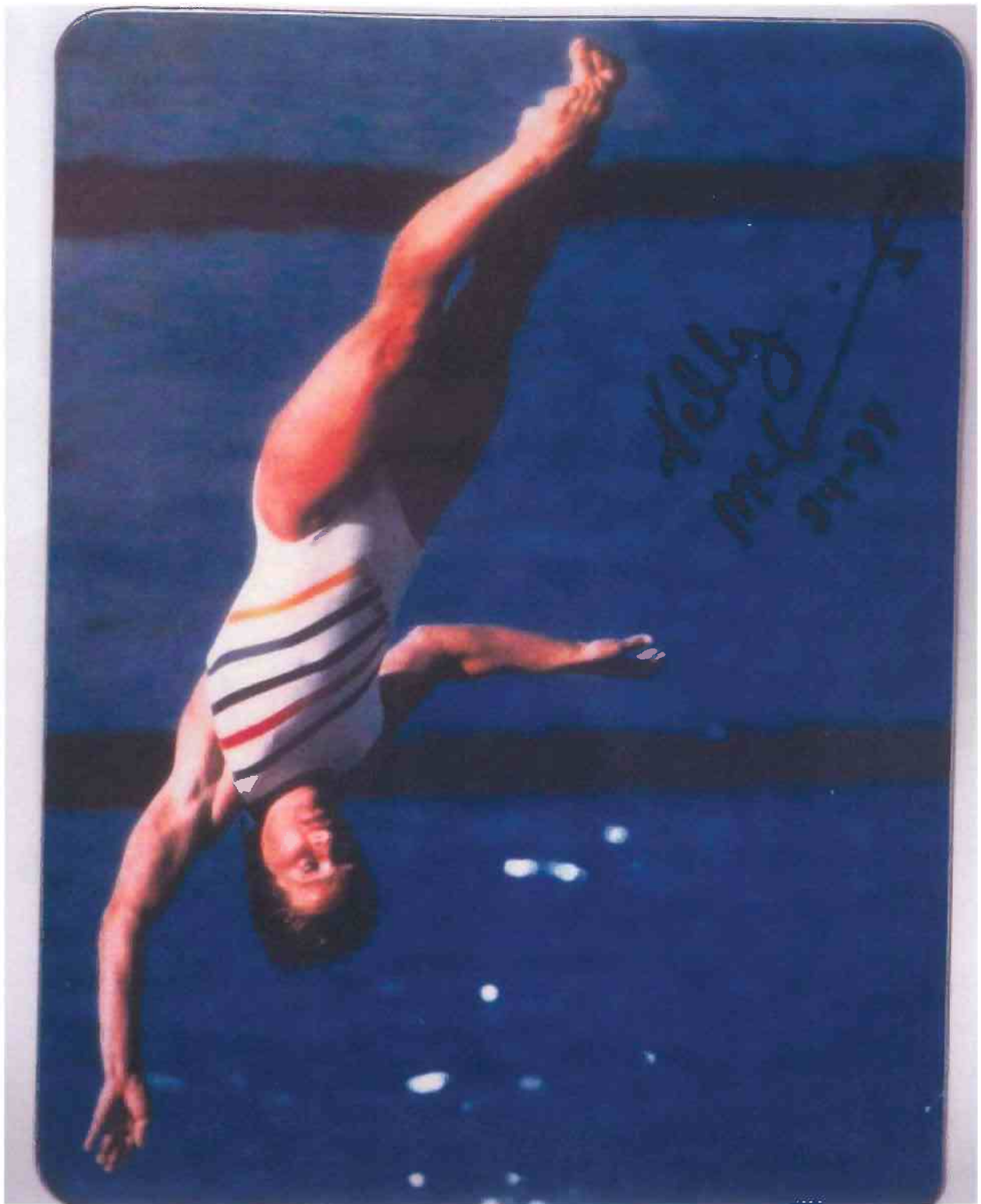
McCormick Divers Team Photo



**McCormick Divers Team Photo
late 1990's.**



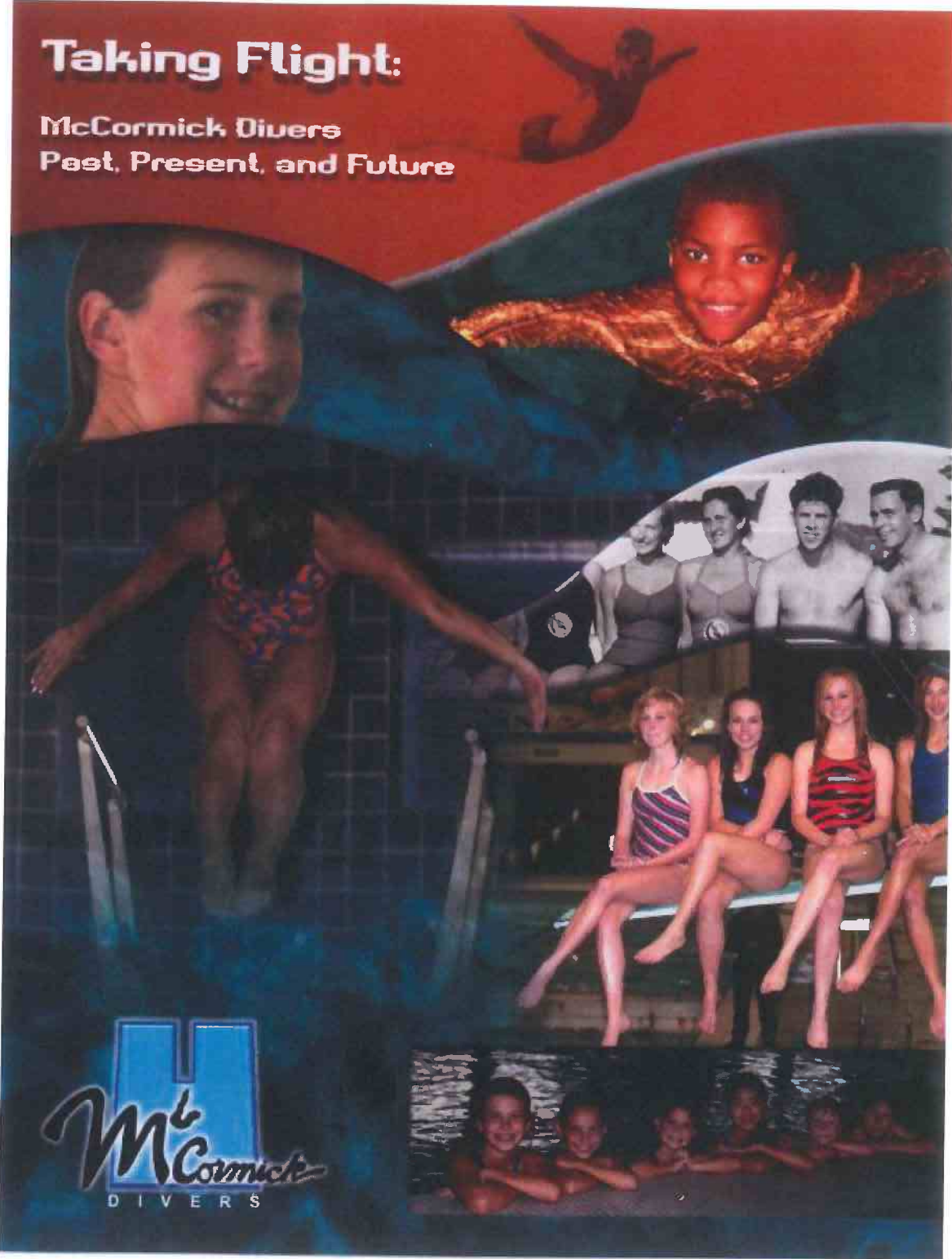
Many years of Glenn McCormick Memorial Invitational Meet Tributes

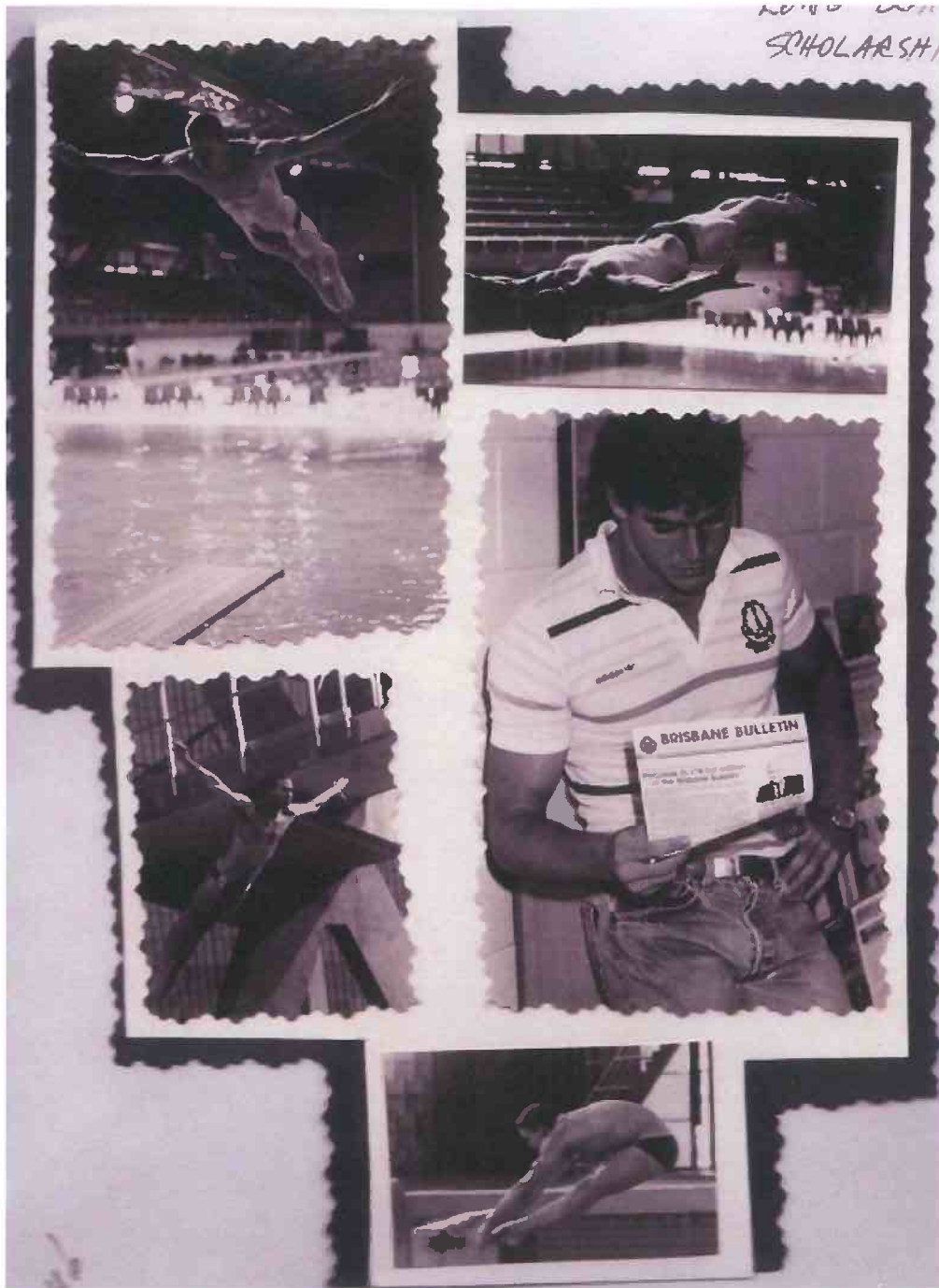


Kelly McCormick, Daughter of Glenn McCormick- Olympian

Taking Flight:

McCormick Divers
Past, Present, and Future





**Nathan Meade, McCormick Diver,
Australian Diving Champion Trained
with McCormick Divers at Belmont
Plaza Olympic Pool in the 1980's**



**Troy Dumais and Debby McCormick
after 2012 Olympic Trials.**

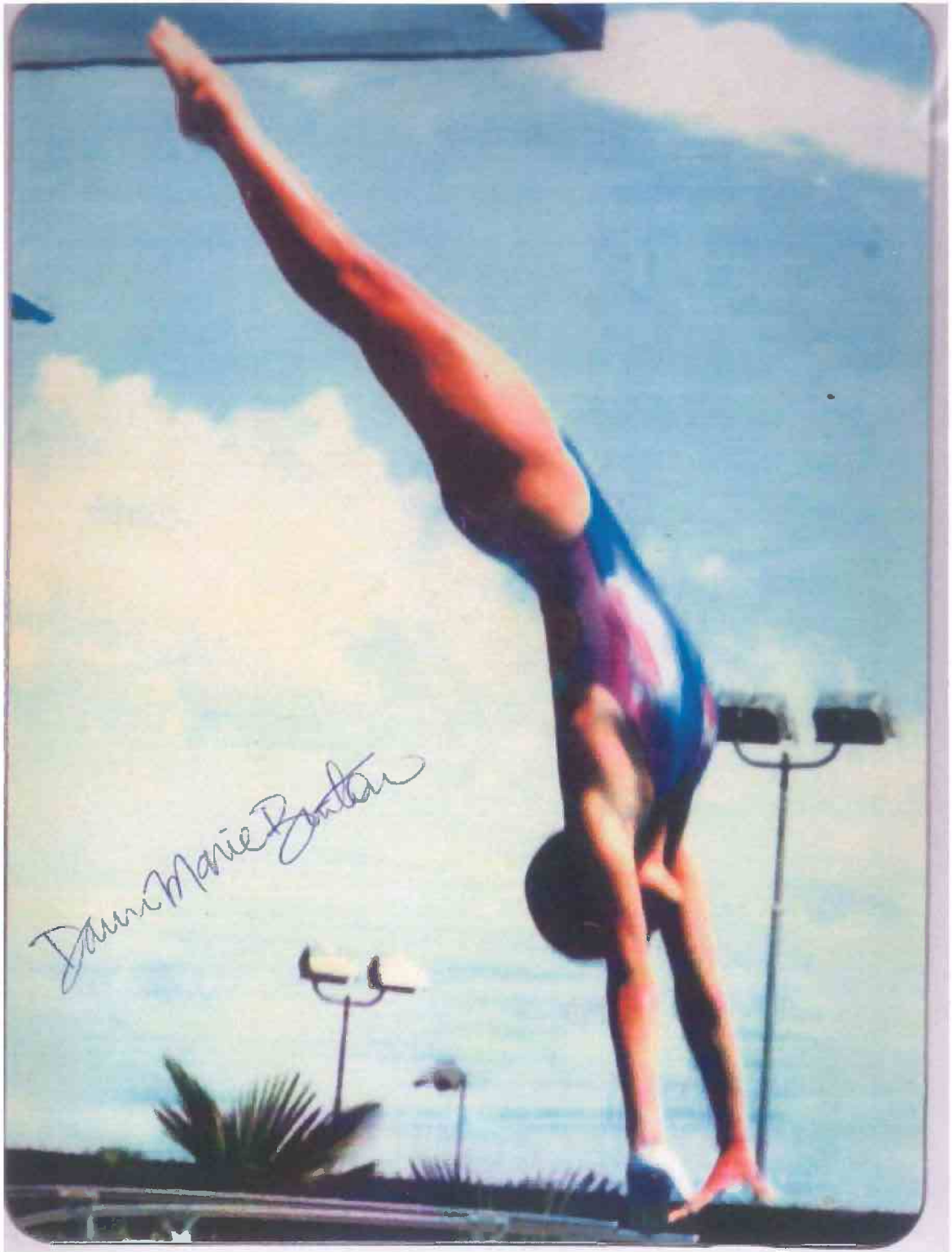


McCormick Divers Memories at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool late 1970's.

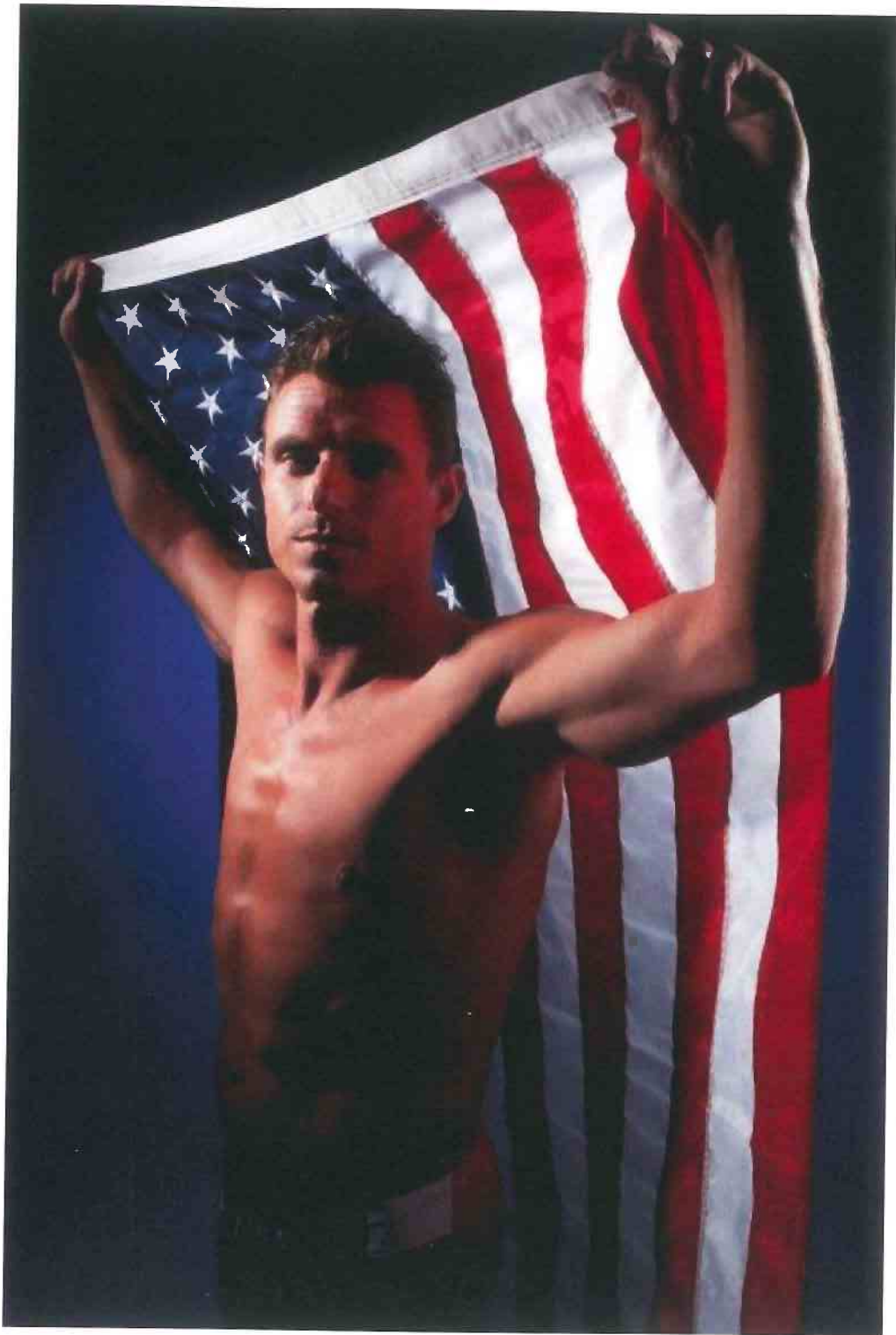


*Frank
Pat
Vick
Bill
Ken
Glenn*

**Glenn McCormick and other divers
pre-Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool.**



Dawn Marie Butler



Troy Dumais
2012 Olympic Bronze Medalist

Diving: Four McCormick Divers Head To Nationals

Posted: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 8:30 pm

Jessica Pollack | 0 comments

Four Long Beach based McCormick Divers returned victorious from the U.S. Diving Spring Region 9 Championships in Tucson, Arizona. Each of the four divers earned a place at the West National Championships next month in Oklahoma.

The youngest qualifiers are both nine-year-old Long Beach residents. Griffin Small will compete on both 1-meter and 3-meter springboard in the Boys 11&under age group. He earned his top scores on his inward somersault in tuck position on 1-meter and inward dive in pike position on the 3-meter springboard. Jenna Sonnenberg earned the highest place of all McCormick Divers with a third place finish on the 3-meter springboard and is an alternate should a fellow competitor choose not to compete on 1-meter. She earned her top score on the inward one-and-one-half somersault. This is Jenna's second trip to the USA Diving Spring Junior West National Championships.

In the 12-13 Girls, Long Beach resident, Sara Knippa earned the chance to compete on the 3-meter springboard at Nationals. The twelve-year old earned her highest score on her back one-and-one half somersault in pike position. She could have the chance to compete on 1-meter springboard if other qualifiers are unable to attend.

In his last chance to qualify for Spring Junior Nationals, seventeen-year-old Adam Payne earned his first trip to USA Diving Nationals after competing in five Australian Age Group National Championships. He earned his top score on his inward two-and-one-half somersaults in tuck position.

McCormick Divers had a number of additional divers who put in great performances over the weekend. Twelve-year-old Mary Sojian and fourteen-year old Dolly Payne are potential alternates on 1-meter in the 12-13 and 14-15 Girls events. In the Girls' 16-18 events, Lauren Skinner, Erica Curry and Olivia Payne put in strong performances as did Alex Pasillas in the 16-18 Boys springboard events.

McCormick Divers train in Long Beach. They have been training for springboard events at the ML King Pool while Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool has been under repair. The team is looking forward to returning to Belmont when it reopens later this month where they will be able to get back to training for Platform events.

Diving trials mean tourism dollars for Federal Way



CASEY OLSON/THE MIRROR

The 2012 United States Olympic Diving Trials run this week at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way. About 120 of the nation's best divers are competing for a spot in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

By [ANDY HOBBS](#)

Federal Way Mirror Editor

JUNE 19, 2012 · UPDATED 1:37 PM

The 2012 United States Olympic Diving Trials run this week at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way.

The 2,500-seat facility on SW Campus Drive houses more than just a world-class swimming pool. It acts as an economic engine and tourism magnet for the region.

Events such as the diving trials and the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships help the aquatic center attract thousands of visitors, who inject an estimated \$8 million into the region's economy annually.

This week's trials feature about 120 of the nation's best divers competing for a spot in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The event is expected to bring \$3.5 million to the county.

The athletes and visitors do more than just pump money into Federal Way's hotels, restaurants and businesses.

"This is a great marketing opportunity for you as a city to have your name attached to the aquatic center," said Suzanne Fletcher, executive director of the [Washington Tourism Alliance](#). "If Federal Way wants to be in the tourism business, they have to make themselves a destination. ... Frankly, I don't think Federal Way has ever marketed itself."

Fletcher, a former resident of Federal Way, understands the constraints of a limited marketing budget. In 2011, Washington closed its tourism office, becoming the only state in the country without one.

To fill the void, the non-profit Washington Tourism Alliance was formed last July with a budget of \$300,000. The alliance produced the 2012 state visitors' guide and launched the website [Experience Washington](#).

Despite this lack of state-backed marketing, tourism is Washington's fourth-largest industry. In 2011, visitors spent \$16.4 billion, and almost \$1 billion was collected in local and state taxes, according to the alliance. Travel and tourism supported about 150,000 jobs.

In comparison, recession-plagued Michigan budgets \$27.4 million a year to promote tourism, the sixth-highest nationwide. Hawaii leads all states with a tourism budget of \$75 million, according to the [U.S. Travel Association](#).

Michigan has seen a return on its investment. The state saw the number of tourism-related jobs grow by 10,000 in 2010, the second year of the [Pure Michigan Tourism Campaign](#). Spending by out-of-state visitors grew 21 percent that year. In 2011, the campaign generated \$1 billion for state businesses. The campaign itself cost the state about \$14.3 million.

Last year, a spokesman for Colorado's tourism office said [Washington was foolish for closing its tourism office](#). When Colorado's tourism office shut down from 1993 to 2000, the state lost one-third of overnight visitors in that time, creating what the spokesman called an "economic travesty."

Considering that Washington spent nothing on tourism in 2011, yet matched Michigan in terms of revenue, does it make sense to conclude Washington sells itself?

"To say people would just come here because we're beautiful is very wrong," said Fletcher, noting that foreigners visualize the District of Columbia and the White House when they hear the name Washington. "Internationally, people don't even know there is a state of Washington."

Marketing is key to educating residents here and abroad about lesser-known aspects of Washington outside of Seattle's tourist traps: the culinary scene, the wine industry, outdoor adventures in both the desert and rainforest.

"We need to be the driver of our own bus and be able to really be strategic in how we market the state," she said, adding that the tourism alliance's goal is to stay private and self-sufficient. "It would be nice to be the driver our own destiny. You really can't depend on the state."

Federal Way has invested \$140,000 into securing, hosting and promoting the diving trials. The city is contracting with the Seattle Sports Commission for event staging and management.

The city estimates the trials will bring at least \$1 million to Federal Way's economy in direct and indirect spending.

"The Olympic diving trials are a direct reflection of the successful investment of city lodging tax funds, and a product of the ongoing work of our Lodging Tax Advisory Committee to promote tourism in the community," said Chris Carrel, city spokesman.

Facts and figures

According to a study by Dean Runyan Associates in Portland, Ore., Washington collected about \$1 billion in local and state taxes in 2011. That figure is comprised of:

- \$458 million in state sales tax
- \$179 million in local sales tax
- \$136 million in lodging tax
- \$106 million from motor fuel tax

FEDERALWAYMIRROR.com

SAVE THE BELMONT OLYMPIC POOL DIVING CENTER

Diving: McCormick Divers Win 4 AAU National Titles

Posted: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 2:45 pm

McCormick Divers' Jessica Pollack | 0 comments

Brandon Loschiavo and Jenna Sonnenberg dominated their age groups at the 2012 AAU Diving National Champions in Huntersville, North Carolina. Ten-year old Sonnenberg won gold in the 10-Year-Old Girls Events on both 1-Meter and 3-Meter Springboard. Fifteen-year-old Loschiavo won gold in the 15-Year Old Boys 3-meter Springboard and the 14-15 Year Old Boys Platform event and silver in the 1-Meter 15-Year Old Boys event.

Long Beach resident, Sonnenberg, earned her highest score of the meet on an Inward one-and-one-half somersault in tuck position on the 1-Meter Springboard. Her total score of 50.60 points is at a level of divers in much higher age groups.

Huntington Beach resident, Loschiavo earned his best overall scores of the meet with his Back one-and-one-half Somersault with two-and-one-half Twists on 3-Meter for a total of 67.20 points. His highest base score overall was on a front one-and-one-half somersault off the 7.5-Meter Platform. He averaged 9 out of 10 points from all judges earning 40.5 total points for the dive.

In diving, the more difficult the trick, the higher the degree of difficulty (DD). While the front one-and-one-half somersault earned the highest judges scores, the total point value of that dive was less than some of his lower scoring, but higher DD dives like his twister on 3-Meter. That is why Loschiavo and Sonnenberg's coaches at McCormick Divers stress excellence in the basic dives to build a solid foundation for high scores as the degree of difficulty increases.

Loschiavo and Sonnenberg train in Long Beach with McCormick Divers at Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool. Several of their teammates qualified to compete at the AAU National Championships. The two were joined by Fountain Valley residents Erica Curry and Mary Sojian, and Lauren Skinner of Long Beach.

The fact that he won National Titles during the Olympic Games and that he trains at a pool built for the 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials is not lost on Loschiavo. His eyes light up with a gleam of determination at the mention of Rio 2016!

NEWS ENTERPRISE

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Los Alamitos, Rossmore, Cypress, El Dorado Park Estates, La Palma, Portions of Long Beach

Volume 88, Issue 28

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Sports



Pictured from left, Debby McCormick (coach/owner McCormick Divers, Long Beach), Bev Brennan, Adam Payne, Leo Brennan, Leo and Bev Brennan presented Adam Payne with 2012 Lee Brennan Memorial Scholarship Certificate.

Diver

From Page 23

athlete from Aliso Viejo excelling in diving as well as football and wrestling, and track. He died in a car accident on his way to Arizona State University where he was to be a member of the diving team. His dynamic sport lives on through the good works of his parents Leo and Bev Brennan who sponsor scholarships in Leo's name.

Payne was awarded the scholar-

ship based on his ability to maintain excellent grades and compete as a top varsity athlete while in the middle of family challenges. Payne has set every new record for the Los Al Boys dive team including highest score for a Los Al male diver at Sunset League competition, highest score and place at CIF competition, the exclusive Sunset League Boys Team Champion and 2012 Sunset League Champion.

Payne started diving with McCormick Divers at Delwood Plaza Olympic Pool in Long Beach when

he was 6 years old. He has participated in the Lee Brennan Memorial Dive Meet almost every year since then including the five years his family lived in Australia.

They would return to Southern California once a year, generally around the time of the Lee Brennan Memorial Meet. Payne says he is proud to be associated with Lee Brennan's athletic legacy.





Clash of the Clowns Got TV News Coverage for Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool Show!

Please Save Our Tower! McCormick Divers

Making a Splash at
Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool since 1968

