6-6-1997

June 6 1997

Friday Bulletin

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CHRISTOPHER NANCE: WEATHER MORE PREDICTABLE THAN LIFE

BY SAM RIZER

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT

To watch Christopher Nance do his latest weather forecasts on NBC you might think that his only real challenge in life is to convince people that real men can wear carnations.

But TV isn't TV, and even though it's Nance's job to have his head in the clouds, he's got no shrinking violet. With both feet firmly planted on the ground, Christopher Nance is on a mission.

"My commitment is to children and to my God," says Nance, who won't be denied — on the set.

What's more, the studio moved Nance's assistants into the producer's nice uncluttered studio set. Plenty of water is good for someone with sickle cell anemia. Now he has broadened his fight against the disease by setting up donation canisters at 7-11 stores around the Southland and holding camps for the children.

Only three years ago Nance almost died from complications brought on by the disease. Gallstones are common among sickle cell sufferers. Concerned that he could suffer a "crisis" during his own gallstone surgery, Nance decided he should be realistic. He began to say goodbye.

He came too close to a prediction when, in fact, a crisis developed right on the operating table. "They're going to let me go," Nance had told himself as he prepared to hear the worst from NBC doctors. "Tell me what we can do," is what he heard instead.

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In any given company, television news producers pretty much like their meteorologists to stick to talking about water in terms of weather, not about where they can put a bottle of water on the producer's nice uncluttered studio set. Plenty of water is good for someone with sickle cell. So you could have knocked Nance to the floor with an empty bottle of Evan when they told him he could have his water and drink it, too — on the spot.

What's more, the studio moved Nance's assistants into the same NBC building, and moved the water cooler closer to his office, a particularly neat gesture because Nance drinks about five liters of water a day.

"This disease should have been cured years ago," says Nance. "The reason it hasn't is because people keep quiet about it. Also, it only affects 85,000 in the U.S. and it's a Black disease."

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Operations to help sickle cell patients procure softer, rounder cells rather than the sickle-shaped ones they produce cost $100,000. Nance would have one of these operations himself. But doctors consider it too risky for someone over 16.

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Charlie, a boy Nance befriended years ago, has had such an operation. When asked whether he would do it himself, Charlie would have one of these operations himself. But doctors consider it too risky for someone over 16.

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Vision, Volunteering Add Up to Alumni Award for CPA

Long-time local CPA Jim Kennedy was named Cal State's Distinguished Alumnus for 1997, while several other CSUSB graduates have earned Outstanding Alumni Awards.

Chosen from among the five academic colleges are those who were selected by the university's five academic schools. Kennedy is a 1972 business graduate and went on to earn his MBA in 1977. The four other outstanding alumni were Michael and Michelle Toduck from the humanities, Robert Hodges from education, Ruby Beale from social and behavioral sciences, and Teresa Germany from natural sciences.

Kennedy graduated from Pacific High School in 1963 and today owns a CPA firm with his brother in law, and he is also serving as president of the alumni association and involved in several university development functions. He has been a director of the citrus belt chapter of the California society of CPAs and, 10 years ago, served on the citrus belt community to promote the fine for the city of San Bernardino. He also has served as a campaign chair for the Arrowhead United Way fundraising program. The Toducks have been working with several organizations and phones and around the United States ever since their graduation from Cal State in 1975. Both are active in the Inland Empire Symphony Orchestra, Michael playing the piano and Michelle the cello. She also has played with the Redlands Bowl and Civic Light Opera orchestras. Michael has conducted the San Bernardino and Victor Valley symphonies. The couple's work with children through their positions as music instructors with the schools in the Inland Empire is well-known.

Since 1971 a year after graduating from Cal State with a sociology degree, Robert Hodges has made his life the Redlands Unified School District. Now its superintendent, Hodges teaches turn out students that consistently rank above average nationally in academic achievement. His M.A. in elementary came in 1972 and his administrative services credential three years later.

Hodges has served on the boards of the YMCA, Meals on Wheels and the Redlands Community Foundation. Deeply committed to community, he also has ties to local business and industry through his Rotary involvement. Hodges is a native of Redlands and graduated from Redlands High School.

Ruby Beale, the social and behavioral sciences outstanding student, is now a faculty member at one of the nation's most prestigious psychology department. Her work at the University of Michigan has included teaching in the graduate school of business administration and in the women's studies department. She is a published author, and her book, Developing Competency for Managing Diversity, uses case studies to blend ideas from the academic world and real life.

Beale is a social and organizational psychologist, graduating from CSUSB in 1980 with her B.A. in psychology and business administration. While on campus she served as president of Psi Chi, the psychology honorary society. She did her master's and Ph.D. work at Michigan. She was a National Science Foundation fellow from 1981-1984, and has received a Presidential Award from the University of Michigan for leadership and service. A 1990 graduate in nursing, Teresa Germany has supported Cal State's nursing program through her position as administrator for education at St. Bernardine's Medical Center. She helped place many nursing majors in the center's clinical practice. She is a new director of education at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Apple Valley.

Germany's community involvement includes lending her expertise to the Inland Area Council Education Council, the American Heart Association and the Association of Women's Healthcare, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nursing. Germany was named Nursing Student of the Year at Cal State the year she graduated.

A Note From Human Resources

1996-97 Employee Awards

Nominations for the 1996-97 Employee Recognition Awards are being taken now through June 27. Awards will be handed out at convocation in September for outstanding employees and for performance excellence. It's a good time to recognize those who have gone "above and beyond."