

# G I M P Y

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF "STUMPS `R US"

VOLUME I ISSUE NO. 1

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## Column One: The Genesis Of "Stumps `R Us"

### A Letter From the Editor,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you, new members as well as old, to the first edition of *GIMPY*, the official news letter for the "Stumps `R Us" organization. I will do my best as editor-in-chief to provide an informative, and, helpful medium by which members can reach out to not only "Stumps" members, but to the handicapped community at large.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Laurence N. Kaldor and I am a private attorney in the bay area (try not to hold that against me). In September of 1984 I was involved in a traumatic airplane crash which effectively resulted in the amputation of my left leg and my right eye.

Since that time I have overcome all of the obstacles that life has thrown at me. I golf every week, roller-blade, play tennis, water-ski, snow-ski, etc... You name it and if I am interested, I'll try it. In fact last year I began snow boarding (what a rush!).

Furthermore, in my spare time, I get the most enjoyment from reaching out to young children who have just experienced a tragic or traumatic loss of their own. There is no better experience than enlightening newly handicapped individuals and letting them know that there is hope. Just getting them to realize that anything that they believe or can conceive they can achieve.

*Please see Editor, page 3.*

### By Dan Sorkin "Stumps" Founder and President

It was a sweet summer evening in 1968 in Thomales Bay, California when I powered up my Harley - Davidson motorcycle for the 45 minute ride back to Oakland. I was at the peak of my career in radio broadcasting. After 12 successful years in Chicago I was invited to join the highest rated radio station in the country as the afternoon Drive-Time Host on KSFO in San Francisco.

I couldn't believe my good fortune. I had an airplane, a new car, a great apartment in the most beautiful city in the world and a contract that would make me a millionaire.

Then it happened... I took a curve on the Novato highway too fast and left the country road at better than a hundred miles an hour. I totaled myself and the motorcycle! I broke my back and almost every bone in my body. My left leg was a mess and had to go... and it went.

I spent a year in the hospital thinking. The doctors asked me to visit other potential amputees in the hospital because I decided to adopt a cheerful, positive attitude on what had happened to me. Perhaps I could pass it on to them. Give them some tips, answers to problems or questions that I had asked and had gotten answers to.

Although in 1968 the name did not exist yet, "Stumps `R Us" was born.

Through 1989, I had been counseling amputees on a one-to-one basis. Doctors, nurses, social workers and others who knew what had happened began calling me, asking if I had the time to make face-to-face calls.

Then, ad-libbing on the radio in 1989, I recounted an old story of a very funny encounter with an amputee and asked the listening audience to come up with a name for an Amputee Support Group that had a sense of humor, met socially on a monthly basis, and was willing to share what they had learned about life and how to cope.

The Prize for the best name was to be one of my personalized, autographed stump socks!

The entries included: "Parts Missing in Action," "Extremity Challenged," and, "Cripples of America." Actually, I liked "Cripples of America" the best, but it didn't have that wry humor I was looking

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# Special Events and Notices

## *Ski Scholarship Available*

The Torrey Pines Kiwanis Foundation is offering an Adaptive Skier Scholarship Program to people with disabilities. The Scholarship is an all expense paid five-day trip to the beautiful Purgatory Ski Resort in Durango, Colorado, and includes airfare, ground transportation, lodging, meals, equipment and ski lessons. The ski trips will be held January, February and March, 1997. For applications or information, please call the Torrey Pines Kiwanis Club Ski Program Director, Ross Ehrardt at (619) 535-9505 extension 1809 or (619) 448-8534.

## *Trauma and Injury Support Groups*

### **San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Trauma/Injury Support Group.**

SFGH group meetings are twice a month on the first and third Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. Meetings are held at SFGH, in the medical library -- Building, 30, Room 3101. The group will be facilitated by Yigal Ben-Haim, Ph.D., and Laurie Barkin, R.N.

### **Alta Bates -- Herrick Hospital**

#### **Survivors of Burn, Trauma, and Injury Support Group**

Group Meetings are every month on the second and fourth Thursdays, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. To be on the mailing list, please call Dr. Ben Haim, (415) 753-1000, or Sally at (510) 582-8581. Most of these meetings will be in Conference Room 1 (next to the cafeteria). The group will be facilitated by Dr. Yigal Ben-Haim, Ph.D., a Therapist who specializes in the field of post traumatic stress and recovery, and Sally Brandoff, Therapist and Burn Survivor.

These Support Groups provide information about care at home after being in the hospital. The groups also provides a useful opportunity for members to talk with other survivors and get emotional support towards healing and full recovery.

**For more information and exact dates, please call Dr. Yigal Ben-Haim, (415) 753-1000 (10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.).**

*Sorkin, continued from page 1.*

for and it excluded the rest of the planet.

Then my wife, Jody, and I were shopping in San Francisco and passed Toys `R Us. "That's it," I shouted, "We should be Stumps `R Us." She gave me a look and said, "You are not serious?"

"Stumps" has grown from the original four members to the present eighty-four. We are now a 501C(3), nonprofit, educational California corporation that requires its members to assist amputees by sharing their personal insights and problems solved. All to be done in social settings (group dinners, sport outings, barbecue, etc.)

I got my Certified Flight Instructor's (CFI) Certificate after the amputation and flew as a corporate pilot for 20 years with a red white and blue peg-leg. I was always introduced to the passengers as Captain Hook! I now use that CFI Certificate to introduce some new amputees to aviation, giving them their first flight log book which I present to them as a gift and as an example of what is possible.

## GIMPY

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## SORKIN'S CORNER

By Dan Sorkin\*

"Stumps" Founder and President

*Sorkin's Corner, every month will include health and safety tips as well as the latest in prosthetic updates and advancements and advice for prosthetic use and care. These editions will be provided by submissions from "Stumps" members and specialists.*

--> **Jergens Advanced Therapy Dual Healing Cream (Fragrance Free) applied and rubbed in at bedtime will cause rough spots to disappear and prevent ulcer and sore spot formation.**

--> **Want to walk without a limp? Check your gait often by observing your reflection in store windows. It WORKS!**

*\*Made possible by contributing members of "Stumps"*

Editor, continued from page 1.

### About this newsletter...

It is my intention to create and provide a vehicle by which members can be contacted and informed of upcoming events and news from the handicapped community. Furthermore, by this medium we can reach out beyond our eighty some odd members and hopefully expand our membership to others who may need us but are, as of yet, unaware of our existence.

I encourage all members to contribute articles of your own personal experiences and achievements plus any information you feel is relevant to the handicapped community (e.g. helpful tips, hints, anecdotes, prosthetic advancements, etc.). Additionally, any comments or criticisms to the editor are welcome and will be published upon request.

### All correspondence should be sent to...

Laurence N. Kaldor, The *GIMPY* Editor, 1340 38th Avenue, San Francisco, California 94122. Or, e-mail me at Phenix7@MSN.COM. Or, Fax me at (415) 681-4855. In order for *GIMPY* to flourish it will depend on the support of all of you, our "Stumps" members. Thank you for your anticipated support & enjoy!

--Laurence N. Kaldor,  
Gimpy Editor-in-Chief

# The Lighter Side...

By "The Gimpster"

What do you call a woman with one leg?

*Eileen*

( "I" - "lean", get it??!?)

What do you call a man with no legs?

*Kneel*

What do you call a man with no arms or legs?

*Well, that depends where he is...*

**In the water? *Bob***

**Hanging on the wall? *Art***

**On the front Porch? *Matt***

**And finally... in a field? *Third Base!!!***

## Reminder "Stumps `R Us" Dinner

**SPENGER'S FISH GROTTO**

**The Atlantic Banquet Room**

**1919 4th Street, Berkeley**

**Sunday, December 1st -- 5 P.M.**

**New members, old members, wanna be members, friends, relatives, wanna be friends and relatives, etc... ALL ARE WELCOME.\***

*\*R.S.V.P.'s with your \$12 (per person) check must be received by Dan Sorkin, at 791 Kingston Avenue, #402, Piedmont, CA 94611, no later than Monday November 25th. The special dinner price includes Tax Tip and private banquet room.*



**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF “STUMPS `R US”**

*“A nonprofit corporation dedicated to aiding and uniting  
slightly inconvenienced people around the world”*

**STUMPS `R US, CORPORATION**

**791 Kingston Avenue**

**#402**

**Oakland, California 94611**