

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

(Lake Trash Removal, Fountains, Education, Lake Expertise)

510/238-2290 or lmi@netwiz.net

www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

May, 2004

VOLUNTEER LETTER

APRIL TRASH TALK: Rainfall / Trash Levels: Only **0.3 inches** of rain fell and the reduced street runoff led to a reduction in trash collected (**2,760 pounds**). On **18 of 30 days**, **214 people** removed **75 bags** of trash from the Lake. Unusual items included: 2 railroad ties, a cap, 2 bullets, socks, a towel, 2 hats and a 50 foot long garden hose.

A hearty "Thank You" to St. Paul's School, Redwood Day School, Sigma Mu Delta, Bishop O'Dowd High School, the Lighthouse Charter School, Jim, Jason, John, Hilary, Bill, Earth Day volunteers, Susan, Kathy and all the others for keeping Lake Merritt clean of urban runoff.

BEHOLD THE ALGAE: May is algae month at Lake Merritt. As you read this, Enteromorpha, Cladophora and Ulva are all growing rapidly in the warming waters of our lagoon. No these are not names of children of the Greek gods; they are the Latin names of our common algae. OK you can call it seaweed. A fringe benefit of their growth is clear water (you can actually see hundreds of thousands of young fish in the shallows this month, and all sorts of critters on the bottom. Alas, trash often gets stuck in the green stuff, so come on out, don boots and un-stick the litter.

NO CLEAN UP ON SATURDAY, MAY 8TH: ATTEND THE GONDOLA BRUNCH: Join Institute and Lake Merritt Breakfast Club members for Gondola rides and brunch on Saturday, May 8th.



Its mother's day weekend, so bring mom and friends to enjoy spring at Lake Merritt, complete with goslings, goodies to eat and the best scenery in town.

But you must send in \$20 by mail. Tickets are sold only in advance, and will not be sold in the park. Call 238-2290 before 5 pm May 5th to reserve your spaces, then mail the funds and join us at the Sail Boat House from 10 am to 1 pm.

If you haven't been in one of these authentic boats (made in Venice) this is your chance to do so at considerable savings. Normal rates start at \$45 (without brunch).

Drawings will be held every half hour, and the winners will receive carnation corsages for mom or your sweetheart. We will also have pin the trash on the donkey games, catered food and music.

The Lake Merritt Institute is supported and sponsored by the Oakland Public Works Agency and people like you.