

POINT REYES LIGHT

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June 21, 2007



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VIRFEST > **Party** for beloved Valley healer raises \$5000 toward medical expenses. **/16**

BASEBALL > **Bobcats** loose Tournament of Champions after winning league title. **/12**

CALENDAR > **Drink Whisky** at Another Taste of Scotland on Sunday. **/24**



The Sun Festival: Bolinas residents welcomed new babies with a chant of, "Boooo – Ommm." Tom D'Onofrio, who officiated in a feathered headdress, raised babies in the air. Photo by Plotkin.

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Andrew Schultz writes his own obituary

French love Bolinas Poet

by Sasha Wolfe

In January 2004, in an apartment in Paris, 58-year-old poet and Bolinas resident Stephen Ratcliffe read from his book "Portraits & Repetition." In the crowd was Vincent Broqua, a young professor at Universite de Paris XII and co-founder of a program called "Double Change" that brings French and American poets together for readings and translations.

Broqua fell in love with Ratcliffe's poetry. He contacted Simone Sattal, publisher of the Post-Apollo Press who produced "Portraits & Repetition," a 474-page collection of poems written between February 1998 and May 1999,

and asked to be put in touch with Ratcliffe. A scholar of Gertrude Stein, Broqua found similarities in the two poets' work. He became fascinated with Ratcliffe's poems as a study in time, movement, and space.

When Stephen Ratcliffe first started writing, he agonized over details. His first book, "Present Tense" took "years to write," he told me as he leafed through a pile of papers on his desk. "I used to write poems with titles, and I kept going back and revising them until I felt they were finished." The problem, as Ratcliffe learned over time, is that his

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Ricky Teague dies in accident

by Justin Nobel

Richard "Ricky" Teague, a Point Reyes Station 16-year-old, spent the day he died relaxing with two of his best friends, Gerry Larios, 32, and Zach Seifert-Ponce, 14, after working on his car, a 1992 black Acura he proudly purchased with money earned making sandwiches at the Palace Market.

"Ever since he was big enough to pick

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Extended Sheriff's call /3

>> Three revolvers, at least 40-years-old are unearthed in Stinson Beach when a contractor digs in the back yard.

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>> Ricky

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up a wrench and screwdriver he would put fans on hot wheels and make them shoot across the room," said his mother, Andrea Baker, who works at Rhea's Home Care, in Point Reyes Station. "He wanted to design cars when he grew up."

On the evening of June 12, Gerry crashed his pickup truck into a power pole on Highway 1 just north of Olema. Ricky was in the passenger seat, and that pole is now marked with an alter of flowers. Ricky was airlifted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where he died from extensive injuries suffered during the crash, according to authorities. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) said Gerry's blood alcohol content was 0.24, three times the legal limit.

Ricky's death occurred less than a week after he finished his sophomore year at Tomales High School.

"It's hard to imagine being a senior and going through school without him there," said Heather Abrams, 17, who was one of Ricky's closest friends.

"I'll never forget the last conversation I had with him," said Mrs. Abrams, Heather's mother. "I was having one of the lousiest days of my life," she said. "He gave me a hug and a kiss and made me feel better, then ruffled my hair like I used to do for him."

Ricky had just started working at the Palace Market, in Point Reyes Station. "He was energetic and caught on quick," said Bill Weaver, who worked evening shifts with Ricky. Other workers commented on how he would stand outside the market and receive waves from every single car that passed.

In May, he had joined many of his classmates at the Tomales High School prom, at the Sheraton in Petaluma. Ricky swaggered in with two dates, Heather, who wore a flowing orange dress, and

futon chair where friends often slept. Ricky's friends called his home a "safe haven," and many crashed there when going through difficult periods with their own families.

surprised Zach by turning around wearing a pair of his own glasses.

"See, I wear glasses too," he said. "Don't ever be embarrassed to be who you are and do what you gotta do to be who you are."

Zach followed every word Ricky said and, because Ricky idolized Gerry, Zach did too – despite their age difference of nearly a generation. Spending time with older mentors was common in tough L.A. neighborhoods, Zach said.

Initially, Gerry was like a big brother to Ricky, but Ricky gradually became the one to be looking after Gerry, who had two prior DUI's.

Even on the night of his death, Ricky tried to protect Gerry. The two engaged in a struggle for the keys to Gerry's truck, according to CHP officials, but Ricky was overpowered by his former mentor. Ricky decided to accompany his friend rather than let him drive alone.

Zach, not wanting to leave Ricky, tried to get in the truck as well. Ricky wouldn't let him.

"He said, 'No, you stay here,'" explained Zach, "I'll be back in 20 minutes."

Ricky never returned.

"It's been the longest 20 minutes of my life," said Zach.

Richard "Ricky" Teague will be remembered at a memorial service on Sunday, July 1st, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Church in Olema. Everyone is welcome.

A bank account has been set up to support the family of Ricky Teague in West Marin. Ricky Teague who was 16 years old from Point Reyes Station, CA was killed in a tragic car accident on Tuesday, June 12. Please send a check or money order made out to the Ricky Teague Memorial Fund to the Bank of Petaluma at P.O. Box 100 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.



Ricky was seldom seen without his favorite hat, which represents the Marin area code.

her cousin Jaime, who was dressed in white.

Ricky grew up in Riverside County, and did not move to West Marin until he was eight.

"Where we came from was a lot different," said Gary Blevins, Ricky's step-father – Ricky called him "Dad" – who said their former neighborhood was "violent and dangerous." Point Reyes Station was a dream-come-true for the family.

"Rick believed, as I did, that he lived in God's country," his mother said.

A safe haven

Despite West Marin's charm, Ricky told his friends he sometimes felt like an outsider. In his bedroom he blasted rap music from southern California rappers such as Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg – sometimes so loud the entire house shook, according to his parents. One of his favorite shirts was a Riverside jersey, but the hat that he wore most was a white baseball cap with "415" embroidered across the front.

In his bedroom is a weathered green

"Ricky always brought home strays," said Sarah Abrahms, "4-legged or 2-legged friends who didn't have a place to sleep." One friend became Tigger, Ricky's Louisiana Catahoula Leopard Dog who has handsome black streaks on an auburn coat. The dog had been found stranded on a rooftop in New Orleans. Ricky picked Tigger up at the pound in Novato two-and-a-half years ago.

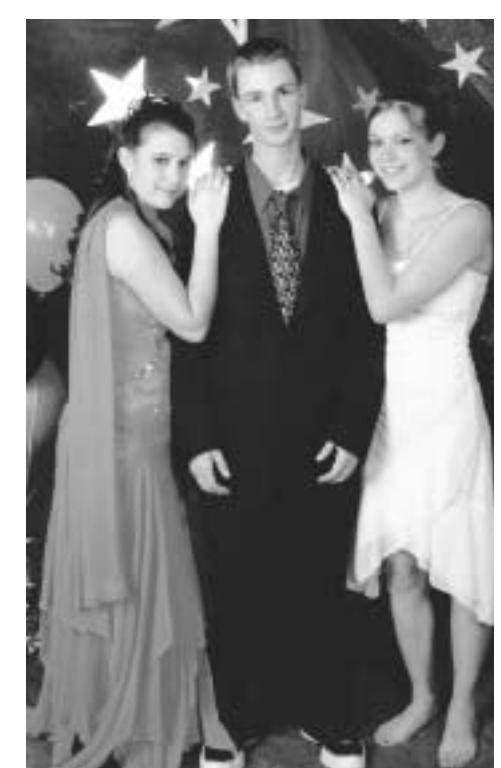
Gerry & Zach

Recently, Ricky began spending most of his time with Zach, who just moved to West Marin four months ago from the Los Angeles area. Having arrived midway through his freshman year, Zach found it difficult to meet people until Ricky befriended him. They drove around town blasting southern California rap music in Ricky's car. Ricky promised to teach Zach to drive when he turned 15.

One of Zach's final memories of his friend was of an event that occurred days before the accident, when he coyly revealed to Ricky that he wore glasses. Just hours before the accident, Ricky



Young Ricky poses with his mother, Andrea Baker, of Rhea's Home Care.



Ricky with his two prom dates, Heather Abrams, left, and Jamie Johnson.