

# IT HAPPENED TO ME...

winning performance and \$30 for adults and \$15 for children at the rotating performance. For reservations, call 548-6462.

**UPCOMING** — The Palm Beach Women's Orchestra (led by Richard Shanks) and Friends of Richard Shanks (led by Tom Palm) perform at the Palm Beach Center for the Performing Arts, 2797 Cleveland Drive, on March 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 to \$25. For more information, call 548-6462.

Two years ago, U.S. Navy personnel and their families gathered in the Arroyo Nuevo Inn, home of the U.S.S. Strickland, were treated to a rare experience when Terry Fleming and her local Archdiocesan band, bandmates, revealed to the band to perform there on St. Patrick's Day. Fleming and the other five members of her band were delighted and honored to be able to go to Spain and St. Patrick's Day. Fleming and the other five members of her band were delighted and honored to be able to go to Spain and St. Patrick's Day. Fleming and the other five members of her band were delighted and honored to be able to go to Spain and St. Patrick's Day.

teacher and assistant director of the Orange County Symphony and Mike Collins, bass, a composer-in-residence. The band has been playing the length and breadth of California for the past 23 years. They have played at radio, water, weddings, barbeques and occasions where there was little chance for showing a party.

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**BEST SUITED FOR OUR OLDER READERS**

## A TRUE STORY OF REGRET

I grew up in a home with a single mom who had four kids to take care of, I am the oldest. Money was scarce. My mom did a lot for us, so it looked like we were doing well, but there wasn't money for anything extra. If I wanted something, I had to work for it.

I sometimes look back in my life and reflect. I realize that some of the choices that I've made in life have been great, yet others not so good.

One thing I would change if I could go back in time, would be to finish high school and go to college, if not university.

I would also apply myself in every subject to work towards a

potential scholarship!

Instead...I worked part-time thinking more about the fun times instead of incorporating a bit of fun with good work and good grades. I used working as an excuse not to do my homework and to skip classes. But when I look back, I realize that I only worked weekends. So really there was no excuse.

I stayed out late with my friends and slept in late in the morning. I'd be so tired in my classes that I couldn't ever pay attention. I wore my mother out to the point of tears as she watched her daughter fail for no good reason.

I was absent from school 80% of the time. My grades

**“ I wore my mother out ”**

went from A's and B's to E's and F's until I finally dropped out. I loved my acting, photography and cooking classes, but they were not enough to keep me in school anymore.

I left my Grade 10-11 classes for a full-time waitressing job. I thought, what do I need school for? I make tons of cash!

The truth was, I made 'tons' only for someone living at their mom's with no bills, or rent, or food to pay for.

I realized shortly after leaving school that I needed Grade 12 if I wanted a 'good' serving position. Because so many people want the jobs, the restaurants need a minimum requirement. Well, what could I do? I didn't have it. No Grade 12 diploma. I wish I would have gone back to school, right then.

In my 20's I watched so many others enjoy a feeling of success as they got into high paying jobs and trades. But not me, I was still working in family restaurants

at truck stops or pubs. I really wanted a career, but I needed an education to have one. The importance of an education is that you learn. You learn how to be disciplined, to handle a job, to be a leader and

gain skills. If you are uneducated, there is not much left at the bottom to do. You end up working really hard for every dollar.

I'm now 33 years old and have worked mostly as a server, all these years, just to get by. I am now making the choice to re-educate myself, this late in life, but I wish I'd applied myself the first time around so it wouldn't be so hard!

## Remember me:

- High school is an opportunity to succeed in life, not to tie you down or control you. It gives you a foundation to help you achieve your dreams.
- Stay in school and apply yourself - you'll be happier with your self, your friends & family, now and later in life. ②

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