Fine design
Twenty-six landscape professionals were recently honored for being the best in landscape design, maintenance and lighting at the 42nd Annual Beautification Awards presented by the Orange County/Long Beach Chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA).

The "Sweepstakes Award" for best overall entry went to Bruce Wayne Co. for the Crockett Residence in Newport Coast. Richard Taylor & Associates took home the "President's Award" for best entry in any landscape installation category. The "Judges' Award" for maintenance was awarded to Brian Smith & Associates.

The CLCA's top honor, the "Meridian Award," was also presented to Stuart J. Sperber for substantial beautification of the environment. Sperber is president and co-founder of Valley Crest Tree Co., Inc., Calabasas, CA.

Geese go bye-bye
There once was a story 'bout a goose named Gil, landed in a field and let out a little shrill, took off on the fly and told his buddies to make a break, the source of his fright was an inflatable snake.

It's true, folks. As reported out of the Tacoma News-Tribune, Mick Davis, a maintenance superintendent for Commencement Bay Mill Co., had enough of the geese that had taken over the company's front lawn, so he went to the local store and bought a snake-shaped inflatable lawn decoy for $6.99. When the flock of 30 geese showed up, the lead goose saw the snake, turned tail and took off, with the rest of the flock following. Apparently, only two gutsy geese strut around the lawn now. It just goes to show there's more than one way to skin a cat, er, goose.

Recruiting edge?
In the highly competitive college recruiting market, Temple University may have just picked up an edge — at least with prospective students who love scenic surroundings. Temple's Ambler campus has officially been designated an arboretum, having fulfilled the requirements set forth by the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA). The 187-acre campus features rolling hills, forest, fields, and many learning gardens: an herb garden, ground cover garden, native plant garden, rock wall, woodland garden, wetland garden, trial garden, along with large perennial borders. The Temple University Landscape Arboretum, open to the public, is cared for by horticulturist Stephanie Cohen, who was recently given the 2000 Garden Communicator's Award by the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA).