

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT

By Denise LaPointe

But if you try sometimes, you just may find, neighbors know what they need.

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council has kicked off 2008 with a bang. Our esteemed 70-year-old neighborhood organization, representing 18 homeowner groups and growing will have to keep our wits about us as wily developers, massage parlor operators, medicinal marijuana clubs and politicians try to tell us what we need.

At our January meeting we celebrated a rare victory with Ingleside Terrace, as we stood with them to deny extended hours to a massage parlor in a residential neighborhood. We weren't so lucky with the colossal, oversized Ardenwood project, which continues to slip and slide its way through the corridors of power. Republic Urban Properties and their ill-conceived plan for a high-rise tower at 18th Avenue and Wawona continues to give me a headache.

Most recently, we were all duped into signing up for a community meeting with a strict deadline for rsvps (five days before Christmas) only to receive a "got ya" e-mail back that the developer and his public relations team would keep us posted when they would have a meeting. Neighbors who are otherwise a quiet, peaceful bunch have joined together, almost 600 of us to sign a petition of opposition to this development, which threatens our neighborhood character.

In the upcoming year a lot is happening as Parkmerced unveils its plans for 6,000 more units, Summerhill Homes adds another 200, Ardenwood and San Francisco State adds 3,000 units on campus, and the Kragen Auto Parts site adds another 500 units. This doesn't even include the shameful development on Brotherhood Way – historically a corridor for religious and educational institutions – whose approval was stewarded through by our district supervisor.

Community involvement helps ensure these developments won't detract from our quality of life. Other issues at the Council include the ever complex Laguna Honda rebuild and elimination of skilled nursing beds, traffic, public safety and the annoying water rate increase that property owners only were slapped with this summer. I urge all neighbors to be vigilant and stay clued-up. The West of Twin Peaks Central Council will do our best to keep them honest and keep you informed.

Local Alert! Thieves Pose as Utility Workers

Taraval Station's Captain Chignell advises neighbors in this area to be on the alert for robbers posing as utility workers.

"We have had a number of burglaries where multiple suspects pose as Water Department employees, seeking access to a residence, requesting to 'test the pipes.' Once they gain access, they steal items inside the victims houses," says Taraval Police Station's Captain Paul Chignell.

The latest group of suspects are three Hispanic males in black clothing who drive a black pickup truck. "Do not let people into your residence unless you verify by phone that the employees are legitimate," Captain Chignell urges. They prey primarily on seniors, so neighbors of seniors should call 911 if they observe suspicious behavior. *Cont. Police Blotter p. 12*



Lennar's Political Campaign For June Land Use Vote

By John Dunbar

The powerful Lennar Corporation is turning to tested political methods to win voter approval in June. At stake is the future of the \$1.4 billion development that could involve up to 10,000 housing units, hundreds of thousands of square feet of commercial office space and the future of one of the last undeveloped parts of San Francisco. The development site is the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard and Candlestick Park.

To date the Lennar Corporation has spent over \$600,000 for the measure. According to filings with the Ethics Commission Lennar's expenses include legal work, public opinion research, political consulting and public relation fees. Some of the top political talent in the City has been contracted for this work.

Land use fights are bitter in San Francisco. Former Mayor Willie Brown's stadium mall initiative in 1997 proved a polarizing battle that Brown won narrowly but left lasting political damage. The Brown years were characterized by other development contests which contributed to the 2000 shakeup of the Board of Supervisors.

So while Mayor Gavin Newsom supports Lennar's bid, he has former Mayors Brown and Dianne Feinstein serve as the Chairs of the Lennar effort.

Lennar is one of the nation's largest homebuilders. Publicly traded, it has been financially devastated by the downturn in the housing market and mortgage lending crisis. According to published reports Lennar lost \$1.9 billion in all of 2007, \$1.25 billion in the fourth quarter alone. In 2007 its stock was downgraded to junk bond status. Turning a profit in San Francisco would help balance out losses

elsewhere.

The first political problem for Lennar is the skeptical outlook San Franciscans have towards development. A large electoral block reflexively opposes any land use change. For voters who think it's foolish to mess with perfection it's difficult to persuade them to support condominiums and minimalist commercial office space.

The second issue is the ongoing controversy within members of the Bayview Hunters Point community over levels of asbestos dust that have been put into the air because of Lennar's construction work at the old Naval Shipyard. This issue has been debated by both the Board of Supervisors and Board of Education in 2007. Opponents claim that a public school adjacent to the project site was exposed to asbestos dust and Lennar has yet to admit responsibility – a bad sign for future endeavors as far as the community is concerned.

These two issues explain why Lennar must invest in top political talent.

The latest chapter in the Hunters Point Shipyard development plan is another ballot measure that could also be headed for the June ballot. Sponsored by a City supervisor and neighborhood representatives, the measure if adopted would make 50% of the units sold at the new project affordable to moderate income households.

Kofi Bonner from Lennar has described the competing measure as a "poison pill." If sponsors of the ballot initiative qualify the measure, this June's ballot blockbuster development fight will be even more fun to watch.



Hank Basayne	2
SF General Bond, George Wooding.....	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Phyllis' Findings	3
Don Lee Miller at the Movies	4
Jack Kaye	6
Get Rich Quick, Myrna Llm.....	7
CALENDAR	8
Carol Kocivar on Education	10
Theatre with Annette Lust	11
Police Blotter	12
Secrets of an Alte Kocker Romeo	15
End Jokes	15

Downsizing Laguna Honda: Who Gets the Boot?

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

In last November's *Observer*, John Farrell noted that radically reducing the number of skilled nursing beds at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) would jeopardize proper care for our elderly and physically disabled. His prediction is dangerously close to rapid implementation.

In the Laguna Honda 1999 election, 73.3% of San Franciscans approved bonds to rebuild 1,200 beds at LHH for the elderly and disabled. LHH supplies one-third of San Francisco's skilled nursing beds.

Now, just six Plaintiffs in the *Chambers vs. City and County of San Francisco* lawsuit are about to overturn the will of 139,000 voters if San Francisco accepts the settlement agreement. There's been a virtual media blackout regarding this lawsuit, and there's been no public forums sponsored by the City or LHH since the case was filed on October 12, 2006 by six LHH residents lead by Independent Living

Resource Center of San Francisco.

Among other provisions, the *Chambers* settlement proposes that upon completion of the reconstruction project, the City agrees to restrict LHH to 780 beds — eliminating 420 planned beds — and LHH will focus on 90-day short-stay and rehabilitation patients. The *Chambers* settlement doesn't specify LHH can continue its long-term care mission.

The Health Commission voted in closed session January 22 to accept the *Chambers* settlement, knowing San Francisco faces a potential shortage of 4,000 skilled nursing beds in the next 12 years and 10,000 Alzheimer's patients over the age of 85 by the year 2020. Apparently alarmed by public testimony linking future bond measures to failure to rebuild LHH as promised, Health Commissioner's took an unusual step, disclosing that a Deputy City Attorney advised them, during closed session, that some language in the *Chambers*

Cont. p. 5

ON THE PLUS SIDE

Who Am I, Really?

by Hank Basayne

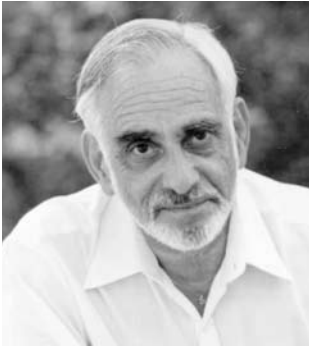
Laugh if you like, but I remember Ross Perot. I'm even old enough to remember Henry Wallace. It's not that I think about them very often; it's just another example of my quirky, unreliable memory which occasionally spits up bits of useless data—nothing that really advances my life which is now well past the three-quarter mark.

I also sometimes remember those gawky wagons that once stood outside every train station in America: overlong handle, oversized spoked wheels, huge wooden platform—painted green, I think—proudly emblazoned “Railway Express.” There must have been thousands of them; do you, too, wonder what ever became of them? Railway Express handled baggage and freight; they just didn't know what business they were really in. Like Western Union, once the sprawling telegraph network that tied America together as much as the railroads did, these industrial giants were seen as unsinkable—but they turned out to be just about as unsinkable as the Titanic.

Unfortunately for those vast corporations—and the thousands of people who worked for them—they were unclear about their true purpose. Western Union thought it was in the telegraph business and didn't realize that it was really in the business of communication. Railway Express believed that its-mandate was to deal with goods that traveled by rail; it failed to see its larger objective as transportation.

That near-sighted view of their greater missions leaves them today both as extinct as the dodo, icons useful now only for wistful nostalgia.

Lately, I've been thinking about my own larger-mission and purpose. Someone once asked, “If you didn't know how old you were, how old would you be?” While I'm sometimes as optimistic as a thirty-two-year-old, other times my body creaks as if I were a hundred and thirty-two. How old am I really? It depends on the view of my purpose, at any given moment. In my early years it was about Learning: acquiring information and knowledge. Then a long period of Doing: honing skills and accumulating experience. The next phase was largely about Teach-



ing: passing along what I thought I knew to my kids, students and employees. And in recent years the emerging stage seems to be about Going Inside: reflecting, remembering, planning, trying to discern a Grand Design.

Of course, life doesn't divide itself into such neat segments; the sequence is blurry, messy even--and the Learning part never stops.

But the bedeviling questions aren't about how old I am or even about how old I feel; the persistent, nagging quest is for meaning: what is my life—or yours—really about? Knowing that nothing I can do will erase whatever “the moving finger has writ” about my life so far, clearly my attention needs to be on what I do with what days or years are ahead, however long or short they may be. It would be a terrible waste if I devoted my future to telegraphy when it really should have been about communication.

Is this the time for self-fulfillment, self-indulgence, or service to others? Should I be tending my garden or using my energy for some greater final achievement, some meaningful legacy to leave? More time with kids, grandchildren, pets? Reading and re-reading? Or should I volunteer my time in some other noble, selfless pursuit? Or be busy trying to make new friends and spend my time hanging out with old ones?

Part of my concern is about time and how best to use it. But the greater amount of reflection is how to think about myself, deciding which of my severalsub-personalities is the “real” me, the curious one or the know-it-all, the confident one or the one who is apprehensive, the teacher or the student, the loving one or the lonely one. The reality is that they all are—or have been—me. Like a mosaic, they combine into some kind of whole. I just don't quite see the large picture.

I sometimes speculate about what my last words should be. I know that I won't be saying “I should have spent more time at the office.” With W. C. Fields, it might be “On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia.”

But I hope that at that ultimate moment, I will retain the capacity to say—along with Marie Antoinette—“Really, you know, it's all been very interesting!” Even the Ross Perot episode was kind of interesting.

MORE FROM THE BUNKO BOND HUSTLERS

Vote “No” On The \$800 Million SF General Bond Measure

By George Wooding

The City of San Francisco and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have shown a great deal of respect for San Francisco voter's money, but no respect for the will of San Francisco Voters. In 1999, voters were asked to approve Proposition A, a \$299 million dollar bond measure that would be coupled with \$102 million in tobacco revenue funds (totaling \$401 million). The language of the Proposition A bond measure was deliberately left vague, but Mayor Willie Brown and the Board of Supervisors made promises to the voters that were extremely specific:

1. The old Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) facility was going to be torn down and four new state-of-the-art hospital buildings were going to replace the old hospital. Voters were led to believe 1,200 skilled nursing facility beds were going to be built and an additional 140 assisted living beds would be built.
2. The new LHH facility was going to be a long-term care health facility for San Francisco's low income, frail elderly population and severely disabled.

This is what the City of San Francisco and the DPH have given the voters:

LHH is being rebuilt with only two thirds of the beds promised and the project is nearly 60% completed.

Only 780 skilled nursing facility beds will actu-

ally be built. The 420-bed West Building will NOT be built.

LHH's new mission will be focused on “short-term rehabilitative treatment.” A majority of LHH's patients will only be allowed to stay for 90 days. The City is proposing 500 LHH patients will be offered housing subsidies in the community, secured and financed by the City of San Francisco. Some of these 500 housing subsidies may be relocated outside the City of San Francisco

The City of San Francisco and the DPH need to keep their promises to voters.

San Francisco is about to take a giant step backwards in its treatment of some of our most vulnerable citizens. The DPH justifies their betrayal of the “voters will” as a cost-cutting measure. The savings from this lower-level-of-care plan will be more than offset by increases in its human costs. The quest for cost reductions should not come at the expense of people's health. Rather than balance the City budget on the backs of its most vulnerable citizens, it is time for the City's leaders to seek restructured federal financing, cut waste, or simply do a better job of setting priorities.

San Francisco voters will not vote for the SF General bond measure unless promises made to voters regarding Laguna Honda hospital are fulfilled.

George Wooding, Midtown Terrace

Letters to the Editor

(Re: Towers on Wawona) Your page 1 “artists rendering” of this project was terribly misleading. If the proposal is for 13-story towers, why are both showing as 14-levels over the tops of the trees? (Count the floors!) And why are the tall mature trees reduced in height, too? Trying to provide balanced coverage is requires some vigilance, and this should not have gotten past an impartial editor! I am aware of the rolling terrain on this site. However, it is inappropriate to levitate 14-story towers over treetops to represent 13-story towers, and also inappropriate to manipulate the photo's trees as they were. The trees actually are much higher than the highest homes in the photo today. Taken together, a correct rendering would show today's tree line visually muting much of the towers if not all of them. Though “a picture is worth a thousand words,” I think the dialogue would benefit more by an accurate rendering than 1,000 words. Jim Christian, West Portal

The planned project at Ardenwood is simply outrageous; completely out of character for our neighborhood. A few years ago we were denied a permit for a second garage door for our home because it was “out of character” for our neighborhood.

Obviously, twin towers, or even a large condo project is “out of character” for our West Portal neighborhood. Al Moody, West Portal

My wife picks up your great paper when she can find it on her frequent trips to the West Portal shopping district. Your December 2007/January 2008 featured an article titled “Pork for Parks,” which I agreed with. Included in the article was a photograph of “The Panhandle's Million Dollar Toilet,” yet another example of CCSF's uncontrolled spending. But the picture did call to mind something that the West Portal shopping district could use: a public toilet/rest room. To our knowledge none exists except for the public library at the end/beginning of the street. Less frequently we visit the Laurel Village shopping area and although there are no public restrooms, Starbucks on West Portal have combination locks on their restrooms making them non-conductive to public use.

I suggest that you consider starting a campaign for public restrooms on West Portal Avenue in some form. I for one have a bladder problem that results in frequent visits to the bathroom, which I have yet to find on West Portal Avenue.

Vernon H. Waight, The Avenues

Send Letters to the Editor to tpobserver@aol.com

CRITICAL INFORMATION

911	Emergency
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553-0123	Police Non-Emergency
575-4444	Anonymous Tip Line
311	Any City Department
Supervisor Sandoval	Gerardo.Sandoval@sfgov.org
Supervisor Chu	Carmen.Chu@sfgov.org
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Supervisor Mirkarimi	Ross.Mirkarimi@sfgov.org

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:30 pm at the Forest Hill Clubhouse.

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While I sympathize with the striking writers who are attempting to deal with the penurious higher-ups who don't want to give them a living wage—looks like the strike will finally be over shortly, I can't say that I missed their work on the usual sitcoms. Many of the sitcoms are amusing but if you don't watch them (with or without their writers) you haven't missed much. SEINFELD and EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND were the exceptions. The few programs I watch lately are Bill Maher on HBO, Jay Leno on Channels 3 or 11, occasionally The View and/or the Ellen DeGeneres show. I'm tuned mostly to CNN during the debate season and was enthralled with the goings-on of the Clintons and Obama recently. I was all in favor of a woman President until I read Obama's book and heard him speak. I hear he has a brilliant 28 year old speech writer (obviously not on strike!) I haven't sent in an absentee ballot but right now I'm leaning toward him. As of this writing, John Edwards has dropped out and chances are it will shortly be announced that he'll give his votes to Obama—they're good friends. And, in an Obama presidency, he's vying for a position as Attorney General. What everyone is waiting for is who is Al Gore going to back? Al Gore once said he wouldn't mind running again if he was SURE he'd win. It's one horrendous job and while McCain has a lot going for him, I think his age and his "Republicanism" will doom him.

I heard from one of the CNN announcers that before the President's State of the Union address, George Bush whispered to Nancy Pelosi, "Sorry, I tried with the Immigration stuff." She responded, "Poor Baby."

Just read that Madeline Albright who's an avid supporter of Hillary said "There's must be a special place in hell for women who won't vote for another woman!" A few of the blurbs on the internet are referring to Bill's wife with a first name of "Bruno." I hear that the campaign workers for Guiliani and the other nominees who quit, are going home depressed and disheartened. That's why I've decided not to run for anything. I hate sad endings.

.....

Some weeks ago the press was invited to visit the **CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE** on Howard Street before the GREAT MIGRATION. They've been constructing a dynamic new facility in Golden Gate Park. The new Academy will combine innovative green architecture with inventive exhibitions to inspire its visitors to explore and protect the natural world. The new Academy will house Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium, and the Kimball Natural History Museum. On January 7 the massive move began transporting millions of priceless treasures across the city into their new home in Golden Gate Park. The monumental move includes penguins, parrots, pythons, piranhas and thousands of other live aquarium animals. The move will take approximately eight months. Participants will range from two million fish specimens stored in jars of alcohol (including some species that are now extinct) to Methuselah, the Australian lungfish — the oldest living fish in captivity. There are 14.5 million insects and arachnids, including more than 874,789 flies, bugs, beetles, butterflies, and moths. You'll find precious gems, meteorites that are billions of years old, 12th Century Persian ceramics, Native Alaskan kayaks, 500 Japanese folk

toys. Didn't you always want to see hoppers, slitherers and crawlers? There are more than a quarter of a million reptiles from 166 countries including the largest collection from the Galapagos.

There will be a new Auditorium, an expanded early childhood education center and a new hands-



on Naturalist Center staffed by education specialists with labs and classrooms.

Unfortunately, you'll have to wait until September to enjoy your visit — but it will be worth it. 100,000 square feet to explore — at a cost of approximately \$484 million. WOW! There will probably be a Grand Opening that will be announced in the newspapers.

.....

ALICE'S HOUSE is just what a director's first film should be — full of both flaws and promise. Several things are wonderful about the movie, foremost among them the luminous lead, Carla Ribas. She gives us a Brazilian reprise of Ann Bancroft's Mrs. Robinson, a compellingly sexually attractive woman of 40-something. The other actors are equally well-cast, well-directed, and persuasive. The writing and filming give us what seems an authentic feel of the daily life of ordinary people in Brazil.

Sadly the editing, and filming are not of the same quality as the casting and acting. The story, a tale of the decay and collapse of a dysfunctional family, may also be a metaphor of Brazilian society. But it is presented as one damned thing after another, with no development of any of the themes or issues raised, like a soap opera, which it eventually comes to resemble. The filming starts with closeup face shots, stays with closeup face shots, and ends with them. When they are shots of Carla Ribas it is hard to object but one soon says, "Enough already!"

Another difficulty is that most of the men are



Photo: Michael Gorman

PHYLLIS' FINDINGS

seen as mindless S.O.Bs while most of the women are seen sympathetically though all are equally adulterous and self-seeking. Another reviewer said that if the movie had been made by a woman it would have been dismissed as "shrill". But political correctness is tedious no matter who the perpetrator is.

Alice's House shows the downside of making movies with a miniscule budget — the second tier semi-technical people like editors, cinematographers, lighting people, were just not up to the level of the actors and director. For Chico Texeira to have done this good a film with so little support makes me look forward to his next film, which presumably will have more. And if Carla Ribas is reading this, please call me.

The David Mamet play, **SPEED-THE-PLOW** with a cast of three, Matthew Del Negro, Andrew Polk and Jessi Campbell was terrific Hollywood satire at ACT. If you missed it and you're a Mamet

fan, you can go to New York and see Mamet's latest hit, **NOVEMBER** with Nathan Lane, directed by Joe Mantello at the Barrymore Theater. Purported to be "A Laugh Machine." Through February 16, at ACT you can enjoy the world-premiere of **BRAINPEOPLE** directed by Jose Rivera at the Zeum Theater and on Wednesday, February 13, ACT will have **BLOOD KNOT** as their latest offering on Geary St. **CURVY WIDOW** also sounds like a must-see comedy about a middle-age widow's misadventures in online dating. Starring Cybill Shepherd, the show is

playing through March 9th at the POST STREET THEATER.

Also recommended highly is **THE SCENE** at the San Francisco Playhouse on Sutter Street. Theresa Rebeck's The Scene, a thoroughly modern, sharply-written black comedy, was the scene-stealer at the 2006 Humana Theater Festival in Louisville. It is full of people in "the scene," on "the scene," and desperate for "the scene." If you have ever done something despite your better judgment, maybe chose to follow the crowd instead of following your gut, then you will understand Charlie, the provocative and complex protagonist in this fierce, edgy, raw, and scathing new comedy. West Coast Premiere! Bill English and his highly creative crew can do no wrong.



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ATONEMENT

7 Oscar nominations: incl. Best Picture, Sup. Actress: Saoirse Ronan, Original Music Score, Adapted Screenplay....14 BAFTA noms.: incl. Film, British Film, Actor, Actress, Sup. Actress, Director....2008 Golden Globes: won Picture, Drama; Musical Score + 5 noms....won Venice Film Festival Prize.

James McAvoy and Keira Knightley play lovers of different classes in England in the late 1930s, before and during WWII. Her sister, Saoirse Ronan, at 13 ruins his career with her lies. Years later, she realizes what she misinterpreted. Vanessa Redgrave has a brief but important role. Director Joe (Pride and Prejudice) Wright adapts Ian McEwan's novel with just the right touches to make it an award-winning drama. Adult situations. 130 min. Focus

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

Washington, DC Film Critics: Best Adapted
Screenplay: Aaron Sorkin...Sup. Actor Oscar nom.:
P.S. Hoffman

Texas congressman Tom Hanks is recruited by Houston socialite Julia Roberts, a Christian conservative political donor, to aid the Afghan cause against the Russian communists in the 1980s. Their CIA aide is played by the pompous Philip Seymour Hoffman. Aaron Sorkin's dialog is rich and deserving of the fine treatment given this comedy by director Mike Nichols, never forgetting to entertain while based on a real slice of U.S. history. Adult situations and some gruesome war images. 98 min. Fox Searchlight-Universal

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY

Best Picture of the Year: Los Angeles Times, New York, Wall St. Journal, Hollywood Reporter...2008 Golden Globe: Director...BAFTA noms.: Adapted Screenplay, Foreign Language Film

Julian (Before Night Falls) Schnabel brilliantly directs this autobiographical tale of Jean-Dominique Bauby, starring Mathieu Amairic as the 43-year old editor of *Elle* magazine who has lived a high life style with the Rich and Famous. When he becomes paralyzed losing his power of speech while driving his son, Bauby is confined to a hospital on the French coast where he dictates his life story by blinking one eye, letter by letter when his therapist, Marie Josee Croze, or his secretary names it. Well acted and beautifully photographed, this meaningful life is captured on film. In French, with English subtitles. 112 min. Miramax

JUNO

4 Oscar noms: Picture, Director, Actress: Ellen Page, Original Screenplay...BAFTA noms.: Orig. Scrnply., Rising Star: E. Page...Won Best Actress: Nat'l. Board of Review/Central Ohio/Chicago/Florida (+ Breakout Award)/Phoenix Film Critics



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Christine Nacion, Administrator

Assn....Hollywood Film Festival (+ Breakthrough Actress of Year)

High students Page (Juno) and Michael Cera fool around in a chair and she winds up pregnancies. She sees an ad in the Penny Saver placed by a couple who want to adopt. Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman seem like the perfect couple, at first. Diablo Cody's humorous script and Jason Reitman's masterful direction provide an entertainment worth your time. Alison Janney portrays Juno's stepmother and J.K. Simmons is crusty as the dad. Ellen Page is a real find and is already getting awards for this role. 92 min. Fox Searchlight.

THE SAVAGES

Academy Award nominations: Actress: Laura Linney; Original Screenplay: Tamara Jenkins
Estranged New York siblings, Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman, head to Arizona to deal with their father, Philip Bosco, whose dementia has worsened. They bring him back to Prof. Hoffman's upstate NY city to have him cared for in a senior home, but Bosco barely cooperates, causing problems. Linney again turns in a glowing character as the troubled wannabe playwright. Jenkins' funny, tart script captures all the right nuances of the Alzheimer's and the anxieties of dealing with it from the family's point-of-view. 113 min. Fox Searchlight

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER

2008 Golden Globes: Best Picture: Musical
or Comedy; Actor: M/C: Johnny Depp...National
Board of Review: Best Director: Tim Burton

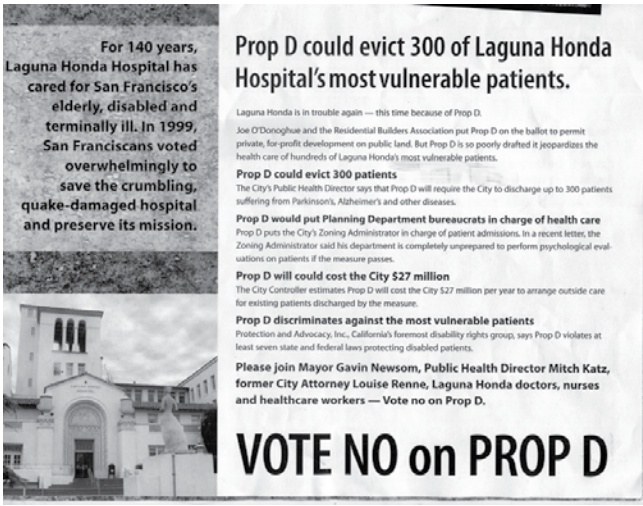
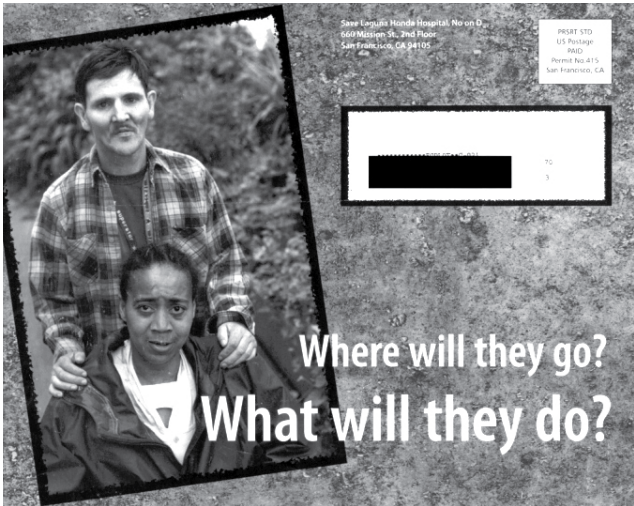
Who better to adapt Stephen Sondheim's bloody tale of a barber in London who slits throats than director Tim Burton? Johnny Depp is a perfect choice for the lead, singing on screen for the first time, looking horrific with white skin from years in prison and a streak of white through his black hair, dark circles around his eyes. Helena Bonham Carter fares less well as Mrs. Lovett, who sells meat pies made from the corpses. The atmosphere created of foggy, deadly 1800's London has Jack the Ripper around the next corner in this quite scary musical. Graphic bloody violence. 116 min. DreamWorks-Warner Bros.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Entertainment Weekly, New York Times, National Society of Film Critics, Newsday: Best Movie of the Year...2008 Golden Globe: Actor, Drama: Daniel Day-Lewis...Best Actor: D D-L: SAG Award; Chicago (+ 5 noms.)/Dallas/ Florida/Kansas City/ Phoenix/Los Angeles (+ Picture, Director, Prod'n. Design)/National (+ Film, Dir., Cine.) New York (vv+ Cine.) /Southeastern Film Critics Assn. Awards.

Day-Lewis chooses his scripts carefully, few qualify. In this film, he embodies Daniel Plainview, an impassioned oil man in 1898 Texas who beats in heads with a golf club or a bowling ball, whatever's handy. He takes the infant son left behind after an oil well accident and uses the kid to enhance his persona with investors. Paul Dano (Little Miss Sunshine) doubles up as two brothers, one who sells the whereabouts of the oil to Daniel, the other a megalomaniacal evangelist. Fine support is supplied by Ciaran Hinds as Daniel's assistant and Kevin J. O'Connor as Henry, "a long-lost brother". Paul Thomas Anderson intelligently directs his own screenplay adapted from Upton Sinclair's *Oil* with firm control. 158 min. Miramax-Paramount Vantage

Health Commission: Laguna Honda To Begin “Downsizing” Despite Promises To Voters



Laguna Honda’s political operatives opposing Prop D claimed it would cause eviction of patients; now those same operatives are beginning those same evictions

Laguna Honda Cont. from p. 1
settlement doesn’t really mean what it says it plain English. But this rationale fails to reassure community members.
The *Chambers* settlement proposes San Francisco will create 500 rental subsidies — 100 annually over five years — to discharge residents slowly. Health Commissioner’s reportedly proposed during closed session to rapidly fast-track LHH’s downsizing to 780 beds, displacing 240 residents two years prematurely, in the absence of a Board of Supervisors policy decision to do so. This will occur partly through attrition (deaths and transfers), through aggressive discharge planning, and by curtailing general skilled nursing admissions for long-term care. LHH is expected to submit a fiscal year 08–09 budget revision based on a 780-resident census, and concomitant reduction in staffing, involving layoffs. Where will vulnerable elderly San Franciscans needing long-term care go? Out of county?
Voters know LHH’s residents are among the most vulnerable San Franciscans, in part because

they’re dependent on nursing home caregivers for their day-to-day safety and well-being, and because 95 percent rely on Medi-Cal for their care; fewer

Health Commissioner’s reportedly proposed during closed session to rapidly fast-track LHH’s downsizing to 780 beds, displacing 240 residents two years prematurely, in the absence of a Board of Supervisors policy decision to do so.

San Francisco nursing homes are accepting Medi-Cal patients. Since 2002, LHH has admitted 3,199

patients, including at least 611 who have had strokes, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, or orthopedic disorders, like hip fractures, and scores of others with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Multiple Sclerosis.
In 2006, the “No on D” Committee backed by Newsom administration allies raised nearly \$300,000 to defeat Proposition D, and reportedly paid \$173,000, developed the campaign mailer shown above, falsely asserting 300 Alzheimer’s patients would be evicted if Prop. D passed.
Why aren’t Newsom’s allies now asking “Where will our vulnerable elderly go, and what will they do, without Laguna Honda?” Will the City of St. Francis strip thousands of San Franciscans of their right to choose long-term care at LHH?
Since 240 residents face rapid discharge, out-of-county placement, and unknown levels of care, get involved and take action: Call or write to the Health Commission, Board of Supervisors, and Mayor Newsom urging them to reject the *Chambers* settlement.

Pave Your Lawn, Pay a \$500 Fine

Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval has introduced tougher laws that will prevent a common and continuing practice — paved landscaping in small frontage lawns in the City.
In spite of the fact that it is already illegal to pave the small plots, many homeowners have converted their grass to add an additional parking space or simply to avoid the upkeep involved in the token greenery. The law has not been enforced by the Department of Public Works nor by the Building Inspections Department, the two departments that have the authority to oversee the law.
Supervisor Sandoval announced the new measure to the West of Twin Peaks Central Council on Monday night. Citing the need for less cement and the value of the open space, not merely for their aesthetic values, but for practical value to the environment. He said the paved landscape depletes the aquifer, causes soil subsidence and damage to the foundations and it results in additional runoff to the sewer system, which is at overcapacity during rainy seasons, culminating in dumping raw sewage into the ocean. Supervisor Sandoval said this time the law would be more specific and more enforceable than the previous law was.
The language of the measure calls for the fines



“Cement Lawns” are punishable in tough new legislation

to be administered by the Planning Department, acting on complaints from the public. The scofflaw homeowner will be required to pay \$500 and must remove any concrete or cement. The legislation was heard at the Planning Department on January 31, was passed back to the Board, and will be heard within the next 30 days. The Supervisor encouraged residents to call their Supervisor in support of the legislation.

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38 Aquavista Way	\$818,000	\$780,000	3/2/2
35 Skyview Way	\$839,000	\$819,000	3/2/2
119 Knollview Way	\$959,000	\$920,000	4/3/2
417 Los Palmos Dr	\$829,000	\$805,000	4/2/1
45 Rio Ct	\$949,000	\$1,031,000	3/2/1
588 Teresita Blvd	\$1,149,000	\$1,155,000	3/2/1
32 Agua Way	\$1,295,000	\$1,255,000	4/3/1
125 Vasquez Ave	\$989,000	\$989,000	2/2/1
40 Merced Ave	\$1,350,000	\$1,240,000	3/2/1

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SECOND THOUGHTS
THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL
- DON'T TELL ANYONE

by Jack Kaye

Have you noticed how secret squirrel everything has become? Or is that too confidential to tell you? Your doctor cannot leave a message on your phone because someone else may hear it and it could result in a loss of privacy and a whopping lawsuit. The medical center I go to for medical tests and advice will not release my own test results taken from my own body for my own sake to me personally or in the mail until and unless I sign a consent form allowing them to reveal confidential information about myself to myself.

If your 19 year-old daughter is hospitalized as mine was in her first year of college in the emergency room, the hospital cannot tell you and if you ask, they will not discuss her condition in that it may violate her privacy. They will send you the bill and ask for a fortune without telling you what it was for.

If you want to contact your Internet provider to take advantage of a rate reduction with no downside, you must provide mountains of proof that it is indeed you who is asking to save money.

If you want to deposit money into your own checking account, be it cash or check, you could be asked for photo i.d. to prove that you are really the account holder putting money into your own account rather than someone else's. Apparently, this is a widespread problem - unknown people putting huge amounts of money into other people's bank accounts for no apparent reason. Right!

And good luck if you are trying to find out whether your bank is planning to pay minimum or full amounts on automatic payments, sometimes crucial information. It is so confidential that they themselves cannot find out much less tell you even though it is all done for your sake.

If you want to inform your cell phone service that you want to let your service expire at the end of the two-year contract period, you will have to go through hoops to prove that it is really you making the request. As though strangers may know about your contract and its expiration date and have decided that you should stop without telling you. Even if you authorize another person to do everything on your behalf, the cell phone company requires that you are the one person in the world who can make the request even if you are in a coma or dead.

And when you finally convince the cell phone company or the health insurance company or the bank that you are the one and only, they say they will honor your request, but will never send acknowledgment. In order to verify that you succeeded in ending or changing what you wanted, you have to go through that whole process again.

Trying asking your 18 year-old's school how your child is doing. The reply will always be - s/he is 18 or older and therefore an adult. All information concerning the student is confidential, even if the student is headed for ruin. But the school embraces this 13-year policy of considering 18 year-olds adults. They don't have to deal with parents who are paying a fortune for the child's education, and can be left to deal with a young, inexperienced, 18 year-old rather than a 40 year-old Ph.D. or high-powered lawyer.

How do we deal with this? First I think there should be egregious penalties for willfully exploiting any of our main communication and information systems. Second there should be reasonable safeguards as well as easy ways for authorized people to exercise their will and to then quickly receive written acknowledgment of any and all significant changes to their account.

I'd ask you to share this column with friends and relatives, but I am afraid this column is confidential, you probably should not have read it in the first place.



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Get Rich Quick—Join City Hall

By Myrna Lim



The day of economic reckoning is here. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned “Recently, incoming information has suggested that the baseline outlook for real activity in 2008 has worsened.” To the average Mr. and Ms. American, this cryptic message means “Sorry... we now have to tell you the truth, the economy has tanked not today, but way back in years 2005-2006.

All Presidential candidates now consider the economy a top priority equal to the Iraq war in the minds of most Americans. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan blamed the “intolerable increases and the out of control government spending.” One would think the city of San Francisco will get a clue. Yet, the continually increasing freewheeling spending spree at City Hall belies that fact.

In year 2003 before Mayor Gavin Newsom took office, there were only 2,693 employees making over \$100,000 per year.

In year 2007, the Controllers Office reported a staggering 8,185 employees or 28% of the 28,788 personnel making over \$100,000 per year not counting benefits, expense accounts, and low interest rate for housing loans. There are also over 1,300 employees making more than \$150,000 per year.

The total pay for city hall employees making over \$100,000 per year is \$1.039 Billion or 17% of the total 2007 annual \$6.4 Billion Budget. The top wage earners received \$859 Million in regular pay, \$107 Million in overtime and another \$74 Million in “other pay”, as in bonuses.

Members of the “Club \$100,000+” include police officers generating \$239 Million, firefighters generating \$170 Million, Public Health-Community Health Network employees in neighborhoods generating \$132 Million and Municipal Transportation Authority employees overseeing Muni, Parking and Traffic, winning \$87 Million in pay.

The artistry in padding ones salary seems to be a combination of regular pay, overtime and other pay like bonuses. County jail nurse Christian Kitchin continues to be at the top of the list of highest wage earners for years. Last year he earned \$350,323, which includes \$117,262 regular pay. He earned \$216,276 in overtime. He also earned “other pay” for \$27,452. Kitchin’s boss, Joe Golden-son, Director/Medical Director for Daily Services, explained that Kitchen works in a “as needed” city

position and does not get benefits. He is filler for regular staff, doesn’t have set hours and works in different county jails.

Nathaniel Ford of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority which oversees parking, traffic, and Muni (the killing machine) made \$325,451, which does not include benefits, car, expense account, low interest loans, and free Muni fast pass for each of his family members.

Edward Arce of the Fire Department earned \$270,170 having a \$78,949 regular pay, \$80,708 in overtime, and \$110,511 other pay.

In year 2003 before Mayor Gavin Newsom took office, there were only 2,693 employees making over \$100,000 per year.

In year 2007, the Controllers Office reported a staggering 8,185 employees or 28% of the 28,788 personnel making over \$100,000 per year not counting benefits, expense accounts, and low interest rate for housing loans. There are also over 1,300 employees making more than \$150,000 per year.

Michael Gaynor of the Police Department made \$265,214 a regular pay \$108,226; overtime \$124,713, and other pay \$32,275.

Amy Hart of Administrative Services made a grand total of \$280,195, a \$264,524 regular pay and \$15,670 other pay.

Chief Heather Fong made \$256,616, with \$11,456 other pay on top of her \$245,160 regular pay.

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White made \$252,638, with \$16,548 other pay on top of her \$236,090 regular pay.

Stuart Sunshine, the mayor’s chief then deputy chief of staff made \$216,613. Part of his salary was paid out of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority budget.

Trent Rhorer of the Human Services Department, which oversees the homeless programs, earned \$235,171, with a \$233,171 regular pay and a \$2,000 other pay.

Since Newsom became mayor, the number of city personnel steadily increased from 26,659 employees in year 2004 to 28,788 employees in year 2007 -- an increase of 2,000 city employees while San Francisco’s population continues to decline as the middle class flee for the less hostile urban areas. The Controllers Department “Survey of Citywide Services for Year 2007” shows an overall grade of C+ for all services -- not a very good showing for the extra Billions of Dollars in increased annual spending.

Meanwhile, San Franciscans have to brace themselves to pay for new and increased fees and taxes after the mayor announced a \$229 Million deficit for the fiscal year 2008. Some of the increases are listed below:

- Department of Public Health, patient rates and other services including In-Patient care i.e. Intensive care, trauma, coronary, chest-pulmonary, pediatrics, medical surgical.
- Fire Department services and permits and inspections for new fire alarm systems, new sprinkler systems, new gaseous suppression systems, etc.
- Recreation and Park, wedding fees, fees for golf courses, softball field fees, football field fees, lacrosse field fees, etc
- Parking Garage Fees
- Medical Examiner death fee, cremation fees, storage of remains fees, etc.
- The Municipal Transportation Authority is also looking at another round of parking ticket and parking meter increases to raise an additional \$26 Million to shore up Muni’s performance? In year 2007, the Municipal Transportation Authority collected \$90 Million for parking ticket citations and \$30.5 Million for parking meters. There are now 120 types of parking ticket citations, ranging from \$50 for removing chalk from vehicle wheels for the first time to \$250 for stopping at a bus zone.

While the whole country seems to feel the angst of a recession, the same cannot be said of the golden dome, San Francisco’s city hall. After all, city hall politicians know there are more monies where they came from. So what if the poor San Franciscans have to pay their last dime for the latest regressive taxing scheme, the so called “fight child obesity” taxes on sodas?

Myrna Lim is a former Planning Commissioner, small business owner and community activist in District 11.

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CALENDAR

February

Calendar



Drama and Desire: Japanese Paintings from the Floating World 1690–1850 February 15–May 4, 2008 • 10am - 5pm • Asian Art Museum • Civic Center

Hambrecht & Osher Galleries Collection of Suggestive Pictures (detail), about late Tenmei (1781–1789) or early Kansei (1789–1801) era, by Katsukawa Shuncho (active about 1781–1801). Handscroll; ink, color, gold, and mica on silk. William Sturgis Bigelow Collection.

They lived for the moment: beautiful geisha, flamboyant actors, seductive courtesans. Meet the denizens of the “Floating World”—the theater and pleasure quarters of Japan’s Edo period.

Paintings by masters of the era—Hokusai, Hiroshige, and others—captured the lives of the Floating World in vivid detail. Now, for the first time in more than 100 years, view 80 of these rare exquisite paintings from the unrivaled collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Mingle with beauties in an intimate world of sumptuous colors and stylish surroundings.

Living only for the moment, turning our full attention to the pleasures of the moon, the snow, the cherry blossoms and the maple leaves; singing songs, drinking wine, diverting ourselves in just floating, floating: caring not a whit for the pauperism staring us in the face, refusing to be disheartened, like a gourd floating along with the river current: this is what we call the floating world . . . *Tales of the Floating World (Ukiyo Monogatari)*, approx. 1661, by Asai Ryoi

IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA

Wed. Feb 6 | 6-7:30pm | Main Library, Koret Auditorium. Behind the scenes with Africa’s first freely elected head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, president of Liberia.

SUNSET BOOK CLUB

Wed. Feb 6 | 7pm | Sunset Branch Library, 18th Ave at Irving. This month’s selection is *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, a novel by Lisa See.

BASIC FRUIT TREE CARE

Sat. Feb 9 | 10am - Noon | Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton. Practice proper fruit tree care: site selection, soil prep, pruning and pest/disease control. \$15, Pre-registration required. Info 731-5627.

LEGAL ADVICE AND REFERRAL CLINIC

Sat. Feb 9 | Sign-up btwn 10:30 - 12pm | Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Rm. For problems that may require an attorney. Receive a free private consultation before 2pm. Info 989-1616.

LEGAL ADVICE AND REFERRAL CLINIC

Sat. Feb 9 | 3pm | North Beach Branch Library, 2000 Mason Street (at Columbus). Celebrate Chinese New Year with the Flying Angels Chinese Dance Company – Featuring modern and traditional Chinese dances.

HOW THE IRISH INVENTED SLANG

Mon. Feb 11th | 7 pm | Sunset Branch Library, 18th Ave and Judah. Professor Daniel Cassidy discusses *How the Irish Invented Slang*, winner of the 2007 American Book award for nonfiction.

JAPANESE FILM SERIES

Wed. Feb 13 | 6pm | Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street. Hokusai Returns – Video screening and a brief introduction lecture by Ken Sakaguchi, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. Brief introduction to the Asian Art Museum exhibit, Drama and Desire: Japanese Paintings from the Floating World by Melissa Rinne, Assistant Curator of Japanese Art, Asian Art Museum.

WEST PORTAL OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

Sat. Feb 16 | 2:30-4:30pm | West Portal Branch Library Ulloa and Lennox Way. Open House Celebration with Christopher Kilday and Heather Rogers – Please join us for a fun day to celebrate our first re-opening anniversary! Live music with Christopher Kilday and the fabulous Heather Rogers performs magic, comedy and balloon art.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF JAZZ

Wed. Feb 20 | 7-8:30pm | Parkside Branch Library, 1200 Taraval Street (at 22nd Avenue). A Brief History of Jazz – Saxophonist M. B. Hanif will provide a brief history of jazz, in words and music.

EFFICIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Sat. Feb 23 | 10am - Noon | Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave at Lawton. Learn the most effective and efficient ways to deliver water to your landscape with minimal waste! \$5. Pre-registration required. Info 731-5627.

HOOKED: LOVE & ADDICTION

Sat. Feb 26 | 7pm-8pm | West Portal Branch Library, Ulloa & Lenox Way. Matt Richards reads from *Hooked: A Thriller About Love and Other Addictions*. Lively Q & A will follow.

OCEAN VIEW BOOK CLUB

Sat. Feb 27 | 6pm | Ocean View Branch Library, 345 Randolph St. Call 355-5615 for current selection.

GLEN PARK BOOK CLUB

Sat. Feb 27 | 7-8pm | Glen Park Branch Library, 2825 Diamond St. This month’s selection is *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro.

GOLDEN GATE ROSE SOCIETY

Wed. Feb 27th | 7:30 pm | SF County Fair Bldg, 9th & Lincoln. Free crash course in growing good roses. Rose Growing 101. Info 566-0374

LEARN INTERNET SKILLS

Tuesdays Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26th | 1:15-2 pm | Main Library, 5th Fl. Training Ctr., 100 Larkin. Basic Mouse and Typing Skills – If you have never used a computer keyboard or a mouse, volunteers are available to help acquaint you with these basic skills. For more information and schedule of practice times, call Volunteer Services at (415) 557-4280.

CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS MARKET

Sat-Sun, Mar. 8-9 | 10am - 5pm | Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. Showcasing over 250 of the nation’s finest artists and their distinctive works. As the premiere event for one-of-a-kind functional and decorative crafts, the show will present a broad range of pieces including intricate jewelry, unique glassware and ceramics, hand-painted textiles, custom furniture, mixed-media creations and much more. All items on display and for sale have been jury-selected for their exceptional quality.

SF FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

Mar. 12-16, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City. Wed-Sat. 9am-8pm. Sun 9am-6pm. Thousands upon thousands of flowers and plants with all their rich colors, fragrances and textures. Four acres of inspiring gardens, free seminars for all gardening levels, and shopping at 300 exhibits all strictly related to gardening, outdoor living and gardeners.

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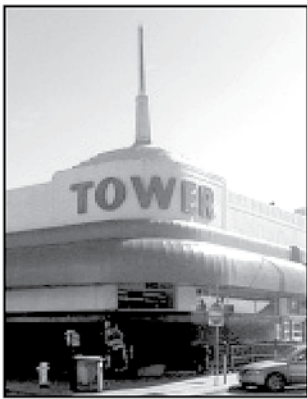
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When you go to the Polls on February 5,
the Chamber recommends...

Yes on A: Fix our Parks

Proposition A will extend critically important park and recreation center repairs and improvements to every city neighborhood and create new parks along the eastern waterfront – all with no increase in the property tax rate.

Yes on B: Keep Police on the Street

San Francisco is short up to 300 police officers, with 600 more set to retire in the next four years. Proposition B will encourage experienced police officers to postpone retirement to give increased recruitment a chance to reduce the shortage, all at no additional cost to the pension plan.

No on C: Keep Alcatraz in the National Park System

Proposition C would make it city policy to urge the National Park Service to give Alcatraz Island to the city for a peace and mediation center. Alcatraz is a National Landmark, part of Golden Gate National Park and should remain that way.



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EDUCATION

& OTHER GOOD STUFF

by Carol Kocivar

TAKE MY PULSE.

Take my pulse. Take my temperature. Now tell me AGAIN how the Governor proposes to cut education funding for our schools?

How many zeroes are there in 4.4 billion dollars? **\$4,400,000,000.00**

In the year of education reform, the Governor explains the problem:

“Two challenges require our immediate attention as we begin 2008. First, we must close a shortfall of \$3.3 billion in the current fiscal year, which will grow to \$14.5 billion next year without swift and decisive action. And second, we must take steps to avoid a potential shortfall in the state’s cash reserves this July and August, and potentially in March.”

In the year of education reform, the Governor proposes some solutions in his budget:

“First, I propose to reduce spending by implementing a 10-percent across-the-board reduction to nearly every General Fund program, and to have those reductions take effect on March 1st.”

THIS SPRING--EVEN BEFORE THE KIDS CAN FINISH THE SCHOOL YEAR--the Governor proposes to reduce total funding for K-12 schools and California Community Colleges by roughly \$400 million.

TRANSLATED INTO REAL DOLLARS WITH ALL THE ZEROS \$400,000,000.00.

And then next year, the other shoe really falls. Well, it won’t be a shoe that falls. It will be kids who fall behind.

The Governor proposes to suspend the minimum funding guarantee for schools by \$4 billion.

Hmmm: \$4,000,000,000.00 (I keep counting those zeroes. Is that really right?)

Now you might be interested to know that according to a recent report from Education Week, California spends \$1,900 less per student than the national average. Our state dropped from 43rd to 46th in the nation in just a few short years. The report gave California a D+ in per-pupil spending!

Hmmmm. This really is quite a clever strategy to improve our schools.

No one would ever have thought of this. We will improve our schools by a combination of innovative techniques.

Pick which one --or even several-- of these imaginative solutions:

- Lay off thousands and thousands teachers
- Increase class size
- Lay off bus drivers and janitors and food service workers
- Reduce spending in the classroom

This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children.

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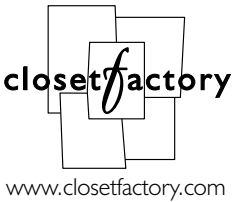
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Solo Hip Hop Artist Danny Hoch Rocks Berkeley Rep Audiences

Hip Hopper, Obie Awardee, Danny Hoch returns to Berkeley Rep with his new show **Taking Over** to perform to standing ovations. Casually arriving on stage from the audience like a spectator looking for his seat, Danny, in sport togs and carrying audience carrying a beer bottle, approaches the mike to begin his endearing tales of his Brooklyn home town with characters of different ethnic backgrounds.

Of the nine characterizations Hoch presents, his interpretation of Francque, a newly arrived Frenchman, who sells luxury condos at an Open House, is one of the most authentic. Hoch delivers a suave and arrived condescending Frenchman with a perfect accent and elegant manner. What was the Frenchman doing in New York, asks a perspective buyer. “Only realizing the American Dream”, he responds with a gleeful smile.

Hoch’s interpretation of a taxi dispatcher-El Dispatcher-who screams and swears at his foreign born drivers who can’t find a street or an address and confuse street names is one of the most hilarious ones.

In contrast to the fast-speaking cab dispatcher who rattles away instructions to cabbies, is laid back Kaitlin, who evokes a young flower child street vendor of scarves who seems to have just discovered the wonders of marijuana and a relaxed life style.

We also meet Marion, a black social worker; Kiko, an ex-con; Stuart, a developer; a rapper and, last of all Danny, a performer. Danny Hoch is not only a brilliant impersonator but also a clever casting director who knows how to discover and present characters that, even though they live side by side in the same area, offer contrasting traits and cultural backgrounds.

The ensemble of his show disengages a feeling of human warmth and care as it unfolds the desires and frustrations of the inhabitants of the Brooklyn neighborhood with whom Danny grew up side by side.

Taking Over plays through Feb.10th. For information call 510-647-2949 or visit www.berkeleyrep.org *Annette Lust, Member Bay Area Critics Circle and Dominican University Faculty*

ACT’s “Plow” Debunks Hollywood Myth

The ACT opening of **Speed-the-Plow** at the Geary Theatre last Wednesday was like the opening of a Hollywood premiere. We were greeted with spotlights, screaming fans, video cameras and t.v. reporters that put us in the mood for what we about to see — a parody of the film industry.

The 90 minute play is in three half hour segments set up before the audience with the house lights on. The first segment is in Bobby Gould’s office. Bobby Gould (a suave Matthew del Negro) is the studio’s new head of production. Charlie Fox (played with comic flair by Andrew Polk) — his less successful, longtime colleague, brings him a package deal for a trite screenplay with a major box office star attached. Enter Karen (a shy Jess Campbell) — a temp receptionist, who agrees to give an artsy novel a courtesy read and report her findings to Bobby that very evening. In the second scene in Bobby’s apartment, Karen influences Bobby to give up his other project with Charlie and produce the film version of the book. In scene

three back in Bobby’s office, Bobby stabs Charlie in the back saying he won’t make the buddy movie, effectively ruining Charlie’s career. Instead he will make the novel movie because he and Karen are deeply in love. However, Charlie wins out in the end by proving Karen to be an opportunist, and he and Bobby are back in the saddle again.

Much credit for the impact of the play goes to the director, Loretta Greco. Directing Mamet is like directing a musical score and demands perfect timing. Sharply paced and magnetically performed, all of the actors are right on target.

“Speed-the-Plow” plays through February 3. Tickets are available through ACT Ticket Services, 405 Geary at Mason, 415-749-2228 or online at www.act-sf.org. ACT’s next production, “The Blood Knot” by Athol Fugard opens on Feb. 8 and plays through March 9.

Re-orient 2007-2008 at the Magic Explores Facets of Life in the Middle East.

Golden Thread Productions opened its 8th annual festival of five short plays concerned with the Middle East on January 10 at the Magic Theatre. The first play of the evening was **22 Minutes Remaining** by Ignacio Zulueta, which was earlier presented last fall by the Dominican Community Players. A Lebanese woman (a heartfelt performance by Lynne Soffer) receives a courtesy call that her village is about to be bombed, while sirens shatter our ears. According to the Jerusalem Post this event actually happened in Gaza on July 27, 2006.

A poem, **I Sell Souls** by Simin Behbehani was conceived and directed by Torange Yeghazarian. Her concept was beautifully mimed by Lynne Soffer and Garth Petal as Julian Lopez-Morillas recites the lines. The lighting and scenic design was especially effective.

Stand-up comedy actress Sara Razavi, presents **The Monologist Suffers Her Monologue**. In this comic monologue, playwright Yussef El Guindi calls for a deeper understanding of the Palestinian plight.

Sara Razavi also stars in **Pistachio Stories** by Laura Shamas, a funny and touching play in which two seemingly harmless bags of red pistachios set off a chain of doubts about a strange van that seems to have them under surveillance.

Between this Breath and You by Naomi Wallace was the final play of the evening. Beautifully directed by Amy Mueller, this was the most ambitious play of the five.

The outstanding cast — Lopez-Morillas as a Palestinian man, Ali El-Gassier as an Israeli janitor and Danielle Levin as an American nurse are all connected in an event regarding an organ transplant.

Re-orient 2007-2008 plays Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. through February 3 at the Magic Theatre (Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D, 3rd Floor, San Francisco). Call 415-626-4061 or go to www.goldenthread.org for tickets and information about upcoming events.

Ross Valley Players’ The Cocktail Hour A Family Ritual

Set in upstate New York in the mid-1970’s, “The Cocktail Hour” by A.R. Gurney, follows John (played by Eric Burke, a young Nick Nolte look-alike), who returns home to get his family’s permission to produce a new play he’s written about them aptly titled, “The Cocktail Hour.” Without actually reading it, Bradley, his patrician father (T. Louis-Weltz), his wife Ann (brilliantly portrayed by Christine Macomber) and younger sister Nina (Beth Deitchman) are certain that John’s portrayal of them is one of ridicule. John’s play is his pay back for all the neglect and unhappiness his family, especially his father, has caused him. Director Maryann Rodgers skillfully brings

to the surface Gurney’s poignancy as well as the vulnerability of the characters. A wonderful set by Bruce Lackovic expands the stage to show the whole downstairs floor of the house--living room, bar, office, music room and library. “The Cocktail Hour” runs through February 17 at the Barn Theatre, Marin Art and Garden Center, Ross, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Call for tickets: 415-456-9555 or go online at www.rossvalleyplayers.org. Coming up next at Ross Valley Players will be “Shadowlands” by William Nicholson from March 14-April 20, 2008.



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Please call in **neighborhood news** tips as well.

Numerous communities around the Bay Area have been plagued by multiple suspects posing as employees of PG&E or other public utilities, then entering victims homes and committing burglaries. These crimes have been committed in the Sunset District in recent days.

On January 15, three suspects posed as PG&E employees at a residence in Albany and then burglarized the residence of expensive property. A witness observed the vehicle and notified the Albany Police Department. The description of the vehicle and suspects was broadcast throughout the Bay Area. Taraval officers recognized the vehicle and one of the suspects as being from the Sunset District. Sgt. Steve Quon gathered a number of officers to maintain surveillance on major thoroughfares and possible locations where the suspect had frequented. At 8:40 pm Sgt. Robert Bohanan spotted the vehicle and three suspects travelling west on Taraval from 19th Avenue. The Sergeant conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at 26th and Taraval with the assistance of Officers Chris Oshita, Scott Biggs and Richmond District plainclothes officers Carrasco, Fergus and Laxman. Three suspects, who live on 23rd Avenue, in Oakland and in Arizona were arrested, positively identified by the witness from Albany, and evidence located in their vehicle linking them to the crime. The suspects were turned over to the Albany Police Department for burglary and related charges. This was outstanding police work by Taraval and Richmond District officers. Case #080052902

We have had a number of burglaries where multiple suspects pose as Water Department employees and want to test the pipes. They then go into the residence and steal items inside the victims' houses. The latest group of suspects are three Hispanic males in black clothing who drive a black pickup truck. Do not let people into your residence unless you verify by phone that the employees are legitimate.

ARRESTS:

01/27/08 | 6:48 PM | 18TH AND VICENTE

Officer Neil Fanene responded to 18th and Vicente on a report of an auto burglar in the area. When the suspect saw the officer, he took off running to 18th and Taraval. The officer chased the suspect to some stairs on the 2300 block where the suspect threw an object on the roof. As the officer caught up to the suspect, the suspect threw a flashlight from a pouch to the roof as well. Officer Michael Mitchell arrived on the scene and assisted Officer Fanene in taking the suspect into custody. The officers called the Fire Department for a ladder and found a loaded semi-automatic handgun wrapped in a bandana on the roof. The suspect, who lives in the area, was arrested for firearms violations, a probation violation, possession of a burglar tool and for receiving stolen property, as the firearm was reported stolen from Daly City. Case #080093194

01/27/08 | 4:03 PM | 900 BLOCK OF OCEAN

Officers Thomas McMahon, Thomas Chu, Gregory Pak and Thomas Lee responded to a vehicle accident on the 900 block of Ocean. One of the drivers, who lives on the 2900 block of 22nd Avenue, was visibly drunk. She was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and a misdemeanor warrant. Case #080094368

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01/26/08 | 12:32 AM | 22ND AND QUINTARA

Officer Aaron Lozada stopped a vehicle for a stop sign violation. When he approached the vehicle he could smell marijuana. A subsequent investigation found that the vehicle contained two 42 gallon trash cans full of dried marijuana. The suspect, who lives on the 600 block of Clay, was arrested on marijuana for sale charges. Case #080089529

01/26/08 | 3:18 AM | 2500 BLOCK OF 42ND AV

Officer Marc Higa, Sgt. Jody Kato and Sgt. Fitz Wong went to an address where a man was highly intoxicated and was in a dispute with his girlfriend. He was arrested for public drunkenness and a misdemeanor warrant. Case #080089905

01/26/08 | 7:15 PM | 4200 BLOCK LINCOLN AVE.

Officers Thomas Chu and Thomas McMahon went to an address and arrested the resident there for felony assault and domestic violence from a prior incident. Case #080090338

01/25/08 | 4:15 PM | 3200 BLOCK OF 20TH AVE.

Multiple suspects entered Macy's in Stonestown and started taking sensors off of clothing in the store. The suspects then fled the store with the clothing and were confronted outside the store by security officers. One of the suspects then took a hammer and threatened the officers and another threatened to mace the officers. The suspects threw the stolen clothes at the officers and then fled on foot and boarded a southbound SamTrans bus. San Francisco State University Police Officer Stettergen boarded the bus and detained four suspects. Two of the suspects were positively identified and the hammer was found on the bus. The suspects, who live on the 700 block of McAllister and the first block of Watchman Way, were arrested for robbery and conspiracy. Case #080091483

01/22/08 | 7:00 AM | 2300 BLOCK OF IRVING

Officers Arline Gilmore and Vincent Masilang observed a suspect cooking in a doorway. The suspect, with no permanent local address, was wanted on a battery warrant and was in possession of marijuana. Case #080075368

01/24/08 | 3:25 PM | 3151 ORTEGA

Officer John Scully arrested a resident of the 1300 block of Geneva on January 25th who had assaulted another student the day before at A.P. Giannini Middle School. The 13 year old was charged with felony assault. Case #080085903

01/22/08 | 12:32 PM | MONTEREY AND FOERSTER

The same officers stopped a vehicle for expired registration and found that the driver, who lives on the 3100 block of Octavia, was wanted on an assault warrant from Marin County and was driving with a suspended license. His 1999 Pontiac was towed. Case #080076576

01/22/08 | 3:14 PM | 2000 BLOCK OF 30TH AVE.

Officers Vincent Masilang, Arline Gilmore and Moli Finau responded on a complaint of an ex-boyfriend harassing a woman and attempting to gain entry to a residence by constantly rattling a metal gate. When the officers arrived, they located the suspect, who lives in Santa Rosa, hiding in an adjoining backyard. He was arrested for trespassing. Case #080077314

01/22/08 | 9:48 PM | 700 BLOCK OF IRVING

Officer Ron Gehrke advised plainclothes officers Chris Oshita and Scott Biggs that a person was wanted on a warrant from San Mateo County for drug possession. The officers located the suspect, found that the warrant had been recalled, but found that he was in possession of suspected methamphetamine. The suspect, who lives on the 500 block of Steiner, was arrested. Case #08007870401/21/08

01/21/08 | 3:28 AM | 1900 BLOCK OF 37TH AVE.

Officers Moli Finau and Thomas Abrahamsen responded to the 1900 block of 37th Avenue on a complaint from neighbors of persons sleeping in vehicles. They cited a resident of Nevada. Case #080071924

01/21/08 | 4:02 AM | 3500 BLOCK OF IRVING

Officers Finau and Abrahamsen observed another vehicle with a person sleeping in a van. They cited a resident of the 1400 block of 42nd Avenue. Case #080071968

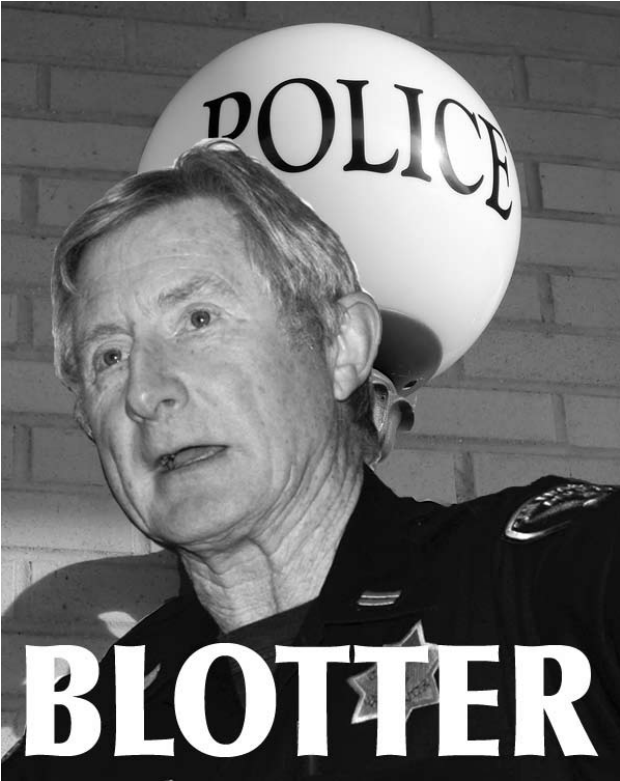
01/21/08 | 10:30 AM | 200 BLOCK OF VERNON

Officers Carla Lee and Robin Odum arrested a woman for assault on the 200 block of Vernon after she had struck her husband numerous times. Case #080072740

01/21/08 | 3:00 PM | 23RD AND EUCALYTPUS

A man was walking in the area of 23rd and Eucalyptus when a suspect approached him wearing a ski mask. The suspect pulled a large knife and demanded money. The man gave the suspect his wallet and then the suspect ran away. Shortly thereafter a woman had just finished

West of Twin Peaks Observer



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watching a movie at the Stonestown cinema when the same man approached wearing a ski mask, pulled out a large knife and demanded money. The victim gave him the money and the suspect took off on foot. The victims called the police with Officer Nancie Stockwell responding to the scene. She took a detailed description of the suspect and broadcast it over the police radio. Officers Chris Oshita and Scott Biggs, working in plainclothes, spotted the suspect on Buckingham Way, based upon the description that was provided. When the suspect saw the officers he took off running. The officers chased the suspect down and noticed that he had a large bulge along his leg. The suspect violently resisted arrest but was subdued. The bulge along the leg was the large knife used in the attacks. A third victim of a robbery was located and the suspect was positively identified as the robber. The suspect, who lives on the 1300 block of Thomas, was arrested for three counts of robbery. This was great police work. Case #080073453

01/21/08 | 5:36 PM | 700 BLOCK OF TARAVAL

Two victims who own a store on Taraval observed a crazed man in the backyard area of the establishment. They told him to leave but were met by a violent tirade and then a physical confrontation. The suspect struck the owner numerous times. The owner grabbed a machete but the suspect wrestled the machete away from the owner and the struggle continued for some time with the owner desperately trying to keep the suspect from using the machete and was able to remove the machete from the suspect's grasp. The suspect then ran away into another nearby store. Officers Aaron Lozada and Moli Finau located the suspect and took him into custody. The suspect, who lives on Warren Drive, and has prior arrests for violent attacks, was arrested for felony assault, threats and trespassing. Case #080074138

01/21/08 | 6:25 PM | 3400 BLOCK OF JUDAH

Two suspects, one operating a motorcycle, broke a window of a restaurant on the 3400 block of Judah, took the cash register and went to a stairwell on the 1500 block of 40th Avenue where one of the suspects was rifling through the cash register. Officers Alan Levy and Ron Meyer responded to the howeowner's call of "911" when he saw the suspect on his stairwell. The officers linked the burglary to the suspects and also obtained a partial license number of the motorcycle. Later that night Ingleside officers stopped the motorcycle on the 500 block of Joost with two suspects on the cycle. The cycle was found to be stolen, burglary tools were found in a storage compartment on the cycle, and the suspects were positively identified as being at the store and on the stairwell. The suspects, who live on the 800 block of Oak and the 1100 block of Gilman, were arrested for burglary, stolen vehicle and parole violations. Again, great police work. Case #080074150

01/21/08 | 10:40 PM | 1200 BLOCK OF LAPLAYA

Officers William Derro, Norman Lee, Chris Oshita and Scott Biggs went to an address on the 1200 block of LaPlaya where a man had repeatedly struck his girlfriend in front of their baby and also damaged the telephone. The suspect was arrested on two felony counts. Case #080074821

01/20/08 | 4:36 PM | PLYMOUTH AND BROAD

Officers Yukio Oshita and Scott Biggs stopped a suspicious person and found that the resident of Oakland was in possession of marijuana packaged for sale. He was arrested on that charge as well as a vehicular violation. Case #080070409

1/20/08 | 11:15 AM | 32ND AND NORIEGA

Officer Charles Chan stopped a vehicle for impeding the flow of traffic. The driver, who lives on the 2600 block of Vicente, was unlicensed and uninsured. He was cited and his 2004 Toyota was towed. Case #080069509

01/19/08 | 3:56 PM | 21ST AND LINCOLN

Officers Kevin O’Leary and Daniel Kroos stopped a cabdriver who was operating a taxi with no taxi license and with irregular vehicular registration. The resident of the 2700 block of 16th Street was cited. Case #080067161

01/19/08 | 5:08 PM | BROAD AND PLYMOUTH

Officers Chris Oshita and Scott Biggs spotted a wanted suspect on the corner. The suspect, who lives on the first block of Lobos, was wanted on a narcotics warrant and was in possession of narcotics paraphernalia. Case #080067569

01/19/08 | 8:10 PM | PLYMOUTH AND BROAD

Officers Kevin O’Leary and Daniel Kroos stopped a vehicle for fraudulent registration and found that the driver was drinking a beer. The resident of Oakland was cited and his 1993 Chevrolet was towed. Case #080067945

01/19/08 | 9:00 PM | 2400 BLOCK 15TH AVE

Officers Azarias Castro and Joe Chang investigated a sexual assault that had occurred on the 2400 block of 15th Avenue. They interviewed the victim and then advised Officers Chris Oshita, Scott Biggs and Sgt. Robert Bohanan, the latter three officers then arrested the suspect for sexual assault and false imprisonment. Case #0800741000

01/18/08 } 2:12 PM | 100 BLOCK OF MARGARET

Officers Gregg Gotelli, Jose Guardado and Duane Elzey spotted a suspicious person who was on felony probation. They investigated and found that a companion, who lives on the 1000 block of Plymouth, was wanted on a drug warrant from the San Mateo County Sheriff and was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Case #080063476

01/18/08 | 2:20 PM | 3200 BLOCK OF 20TH AVENUE

Officers Moli Finau and Aaron Lozada went to Nordstrom and arrested a fraud suspect for using a fraudulent access card to purchase a computer. The suspect lives in Mountain View. Case #080064628

01/18/08 | 25TH AND LAWTON

Sgt. Eric Kim, Officer Vincent Masilang and Officer Dean Lee responded to a report of a suspicious loiterer. They cited a resident of the 2500 block of 3rd Street for possession of marijuana. Case #080064719

01/17/08 | 6:00 AM | FIRST BLOCK OF STRATFORD

Officers Neil Fanene and Sam Martin responded to a report of a rejected suitor drunk on the porch of a woman’s house. The man had taken a rolled up newspaper and broken the window of the woman’s house. The resident of the 100 block of Stratford was arrested for malicious mischief and drunk. Case #080058273

01/17/08 | 12:50 PM | 2200 BLOCK OF 14TH AVENUE

Officer Jennifer Granucci, School Resource Officer at Hoover Middle School, cited a juvenile who lives on Brighton for sexual battery on a fellow student. Case #080054516

01/17/08 | 1:50 PM | 900 BLOCK OF CAPITOL

Officers Juan Gala and Gregory Pak stopped a driver for irregular registration. The driver, who lives on Cora, was wanted on a warrant for driving with a suspended license. He was also on parole for a drug offense. His 1994 Chevrolet was towed. Case #080059704

01/17/08 | 6:42 PM | 3900 BLOCK OF NORIEGA

A man pulled up to the 3900 block of Noriega in his vehicle and got into a verbal spat with several individuals in the area. He then withdrew an automatic handgun and pointed it at the persons, stating “do you want to get shot?” The man then got back into the vehicle and left the area. Taraval Neighborhood Team Officers Sgt. Robert Padrones, Gregory Pak, Jose Guardado, Duane Elzey, Gregg Gotelli and Officer James Drilon sped to the scene, obtained a description of the suspect and vehicle as well as interviewed witnesses. Sgt. Padrones spotted the vehicle at Lower Great Highway and Moraga. A stop was made with the assistance of other officers and the suspect and weapon, the latter found under the driver’s seat and loaded, were taken into custody. The suspect, who lives on the 700 block of Foerster and who has prior arrests, was arrested for firearms charges, criminal threats, brandishing a firearm, narcotics possession and driving with a suspended license. His 2001 Jeep was towed. Case #080060808. This is another example of excellent and expeditious police work by officers assigned to the Taraval Police Station who are dedicated to protect you.

01/15/08 | 8:40 PM | 26TH AND TARAVAL

See story on page one.

01/14/08 | 9:20 AM | 1300 BLOCK OF 9TH AVENUE

Officer Ron Gehrke cited a resident of the 1400 block of 8th Avenue for brandishing a hammer at a victim. Case #080046494

01/14/08 | 7:13 PM | RAMSELL AND RANDOLPH

Officers Chris Oshita, Scott Biggs, and Kevin O’Leary stopped a person for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk as he was narrowly missing pedestrians. The suspect, who lives on Bright, was on probation for domestic violence. A search revealed a concealed illegal knife and metal knuckles. Case #080048826

01/11/08 | 11:23 PM | 1000 BLOCK OF GREAT HIGH-

Officers Angela Rouede and Peterkent DeJesus were aware that a pedestrian had been hit by a driver in a vehicle and fled the scene. The officers spotted the vehicle at Skyline and Herbst Road. The driver was obviously under the influence of a narcotic, had damage to the front of the vehicle, and spontaneously stated, “How is that guy I hit?” The suspect, who has no local address, was arrested for driving under the influence and felony hit and run. Case #080039182

01/12/08 | NOON | 300 B LOCK OF RALSTON

Officers Robin Odum and Carla Lee arrested an 18 year old who lives in the area for having unlawful sex with a minor. Case #080040026

01/12/08 | 12:05 PM | 1400 BLOCK OF 45TH AVENUE

Officer Charles Chan responded to an address on the 1400 block of 45th Avenue where a victim had been beaten by her boyfriend. Officers Ron Gehrke and Wade Bailey located the suspect on 34th Avenue and arrested him. Case #080040399

01/12/08 | 5:25 PM | 400 BLOCK OF CAPITOL

Officers Gregg Gotelli, Jose Guardado and Duane Elzey arrested a 14 year old boy who was smoking marijuana and who was wanted from a previous incident involving possession for sale of crack cocaine. The boy resides on Tompkins. Case #080041416

01/10/08 | 1:10 PM | 300 BLOCK OF DEMONTFORT

Officers John Scully and Lindsey Suslow went to “Cat’s” High School and arrested a student who lives in Petaluma, for striking and injuring the school principal after a tirade by the suspect. He was charged with felony assault and malicious mischief. Case #080033281

01/09/08 | 3:00 PM | ORIZABA AND FARALLONES

Officers Gregory Pak, Duane Elzey, Gregg Gotelli and Jose Guardado were on patrol as part of a special enforcement team in the Lakeview area. They observed a suspect run across the street in front of the police vehicle almost causing a collision. The suspect was stopped and he gave various conflicting names. They finally determined that he lived on the 200 block of Farallones and was wanted on a no bail warrant for burglary and grand theft. A probation search of his residence revealed suspected cocaine. He was arrested on a multitude of charges. Case #080029876

01/09/08 | 3:30 PM | 1600 BLOCK OF 24TH AVENUE

Officer Kevin O’Leary responded to a residence where an estranged boyfriend was inside an open garage threatening to kick a door in. The officer detained the suspect and found that he had beaten the female victim at the premises on at least ten occasions. The resident of Vallejo was arrested for domestic violence and a warrant for driving with a suspended license. Case #080030027

01/09/08 | 5:00 PM | 1800 BLOCK OF 27TH AVENUE

Officers Christa Peters and Patrice Scanlan responded to a call of a burglary in progress. They arrived and found that the call was bogus. A warrant check revealed a local resident was wanted for driving with a suspended license, soliciting prostitution and possession of a prohibited knife. Case #080030497

01/09/08 | 9:45 PM | 1400 BLOCK OF 14TH AVENUE

Officers Sean Perdomo and Alan Lamb went to a residence where there was an ongoing domestic dispute. After an investigation they cited a resident of the 1700 block of 38th Avenue and a resident of the 1400 block of 14th Avenue for assault. Case #080031489

01/09/08 | 10:00 PM | 100 BLOCK OF RANDOLPH

Officers Allan Wong, Azarias Castro and Sgt. Jody Kato went to an address on the 100 block of Randolph where a dispute amongst relatives concerning the cleaning of the house had escalated. The officers arrested one resident for battery, a probation violation and a misdemeanor warrant. Case #080031536

01/08/08 | 12:01 AM | 1700 BLOCK OF GREAT HIGH-

Officers Daniel Kroos, Kevin O’Leary, Azarias Castro and Allan Wong were checking for auto thieves along the Great Highway when they encountered a resident of the 1400 block of 39th Avenue smoking marijuana. He was cited and released. Case #080024531

01/08/08 | 1:51 AM | 200 BLOCK OF BROAD

Officers Christina Pena and Thomas Harvey observed a driver doubleparked blocking traffic, including a muni railway vehicle. They motioned for the driver to move but he did not. They advised him to again move but he did not. They stopped and ran a warrant check and found that the driver, who lives in Daly City, was wanted on an arrest warrant from Colma for reckless driving and being unlicensed. He was arrested. Case #080024713

01/08/08 | 3:49 AM | 800 BLOCK OF NORIEGA

Officer Alan Lamb responded to a report of a man checking out cars and going through garbage cans. A warrant check revealed the suspect, who has no permanent local address, was wanted on a no bail narcotics warrant. Case #070790015

01/08/08 | 10:09 AM | 700 BLOCK OF FONT

Officer Neil Fanene stopped a vehicle for a seatbelt violation. The driver, from Vallejo, was driving with a suspended license and was wanted on a drunk driving warrant. The passenger, who lives on Montcalm, was wanted on a no bail narcotics warrant from South San Francisco. Their 2007 Toyota was towed. Case #080025357

01/08/08 | 8:45 PM | 32ND AND JUDAH

A middleaged woman was walking in the area of 32nd and Judah when she spotted a man with a large sweatshirt pulled partially over her face looking at her. The woman became quite nervous as she walked closer to the man. Suddenly the man grabbed the woman’s purse and a fierce struggle ensued between the victim and the predator. The man overpowered the woman and took off running north on 32nd Avenue with her purse. Two local residents observed the suspect running with the purse and further saw him get into a vehicle being driven by another suspect. The local residents followed the suspects in their vehicle and called “911”. The suspects drove recklessly and escaped in the vehicle south on 19th Avenue. Officer Darren Wong arrived on the scene, quickly interviewed the victim and gave explicit descriptions of the vehicle and the suspects over the police radio. Officers Kevin O’Leary and Daniel Kroos spotted the suspects and vehicle being driven on 19th Avenue at Ulloa. The officers stopped the suspects, detained them, obtained evidence in the vehicle linking them to the robbery, and facilitated the victim and witnesses to the arrest scene where they positively identified the vehicle and the suspects. The suspects, who live on Dedman Court and the 1700 block of Palou, and have prior arrests for multiple robberies, assault, firearms and narcotics charges, were arrested for robbery and conspiracy. This was the personification of teamwork between residents and the police to arrest two dangerous robbers. Case #080027507

Cont. p. 14

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Page 13

West of Twin Peaks Observer

February 2008

01/08/08 | 10:45 PM | 200 BLOCK OF ASHTON
Officers Anthony Calasanz, Josey Russell, Thomas Abrahamsen and Sgt. Rowena Wilson went to the 200 block of Ashton where a woman had assaulted another and threatened to kill her and the officers. She was arrested on a multitude of charges. Case #080024337

01/07/08 | 9:22 AM | 200 BLOCK OF VICTORIA
Officers Robin Odum and Carla Lee went to a report of a man beating a woman in an open garage. When the officers arrived, they found a woman in a fetal position with a broken leg and other injuries. They then observed a suspect come to the garage from the main house. They detained the suspect and commenced an investigation which disclosed that the suspect had beaten the woman after a dispute over a love triangle. The suspect was arrested on four assault charges. Case #080021208

01/07/08 | 7:39 PM | 500 BLOCK OF CAPITOL
Officers Rex Calaunan and Nathaniel Manalang went to an address on Capitol where a suspect was threatening a victim using anti-gay epithets. The suspect was arrested for criminal threats, violation of a restraining order and a violation of probation. Case #080023969

01/06/08 | 3:30 PM | 200 BLOCK OF WINSTON
Officer Nancie Stockwell went to Nordstrom store where two women had entered the store and stolen merchandise without paying. Both women struck the security officers before being subdued. One suspect, who lives on the 100 block of Ledyard, was arrested for felony theft due to prior theft convictions and for assault. The other, who lives on the 4400 block of 3rd Street, was cited for theft and assault. Case #080019877

01/03/08 | 1:23 AM | 100 BLOCK OF SAGAMORE
Officers Thomas Lee and Angela Rouede went to an address on the 100 block of Sagamore where a man had

beaten his girlfriend causing injuries to her elbow and back. The suspect, who lives on the 200 block of Orizaba, was arrested for domestic violence. Case #080007208

01/03/08 | 3:35 AM | 19TH AND TARAVAL
Officers Robert Hamblen and Thomas Harvey responded to a traffic accident. One of the participants was drunk and failed a field sobriety test. The suspect, who lives in San Mateo, was arrested for drunk driving and being uninsured. Case #080017683

01/03/08 | 6:50 AM | 1800 BLOCK OF VICENTE
Officers Neil Fanene and Tessa Donati responded to the Edgewood Children's Center where a client had repeatedly struck an employee in the head with a water pitcher. The suspect was arrested for felony assault. Case #080007402

01/03/08 | 8:00 PM | JERROLD AND BAYSHORE
Officers Jose Guardado and Duane Elzey observed a suspect in a vehicle go through stop signs on Randolph and speed through rain slickened streets. The driver got on Highway 280 and was finally stopped at Jerrold and Bayshore. The suspect, from Richmond, was cited but a search revealed a large quantity of cocaine. He was arrested and his 2004 Honda was towed. Case #080010477

01/01/08 | 12:45 AM | FIRST BLOCK OF HOLLOWAY
Officers Allan Wong and Azarias Castro went to an address on the first block of Holloway where a brother had beaten his sister and threatened her after a family fight. The suspect was arrested on three charges. Case #080000406

01/01/08 | 12:48 AM | 100 BLOCK OF SAGAMORE
Officers Duane Elzey, Gregg Gotelli and Jose Guardado stopped a vehicle for a license plate violation. After an investigation, the driver, who has no local address, was cited for being uninsured. A passenger, who lives on the

700 block of Capitol, was cited for possession of marijuana. Case #080000230

01/01/08 | 1:30 AM | 1800 BLOCK 43RD AVE.
A man and a woman got into a dispute over the man not showing up on New Year's Eve until 1:30 am. The woman took a key and committed a malicious mischief to the man's vehicle. The woman, who lives on the 1500 block of 29th Avenue, was cited. Case #080000434

01/01/08 | 8:10 PM | OCEAN AND MANOR
Officers Ronald Chew and Rex Calaunan investigated a dispute between a muni driver and an intoxicated patron. The officers arrested the patron for drunk and malicious mischief. He has no permanent local address. Case #080002822

01/01/08 | 8:30 pm | 2000 block of 46th Ave.

On December 31, 2007 a man in a vehicle had sprayed a store on the 4000 block of Judah with gunfire. On January 1, 2008 Sgt. Robert Bohanan obtained information regarding the possible identity of the suspect. Officers Scott Biggs, Chris Oshita, Kevin O'Leary and Daniel Kroos joined the sergeant and went to an address on the 2000 block of 46th Avenue. The officers conducted a thorough investigation and located the suspect's vehicle. They then conducted a ruse to get the suspect to leave his residence and arrested him. The officers confiscated from the suspect numerous firearms, including the automatic handgun used in the shooting as well as assault weapons. The officers skillfully obtained a full confession from the suspect including his motivation for shooting at the store. The suspect, who lives on the 2000 block of 46th Avenue, was arrested on numerous charges. He is a convicted felon. This was exemplary police work under the supervision of Sgt. Robert Bohanan. Case #071335787

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West of Twin Peaks Observer

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Secret Journal of an
Alte Kocker Romeo

By A. K.



BEGINNINGS

In the beginning George Bush said, "Let there be Retirement." And lo, there was Retirement. The first day. And The Girlfriend came, and The Girlfriend went. The second day. "Now what?" Which is how it all started.

Coming back alone from a trip I had started with The Girlfriend, left me at the loosest of loose ends. I had seen the Lonely Hearts ads before and even answered a few to little result. Would it make any difference that they were now on-line?

Why would anybody give a rat's patoot about a short pudgy balding 60 year old smart alec Little Old Jewish Man who talks too much? The answer, which should have been obvious, is short pudgy 60-or-so Little Old Ladies. Lots of them. Who knew?

All my life, especially in the 20 years since The Divorce (and even for a number of years before), sex had been a cherished rarity, like snow in San Francisco. Something that happened occasionally, but not this year.

So I was surprised out of my shorts by the responses. Lots of women I wrote to were eager to write further and to meet me. And not all of them were looking for a husband. Calloo Callay!!

Internet dating makes access to people go from hoping to meet someone at a party once a month or two, or in a church or synagogue or some other boredom-athon, to having databases upon databases of people who are interested and have written out what they are interested in. It means not having to guess about meanings conveyed in guarded and often coded conversations.

Most of all it means being able to hit on someone without your friends being in the room to see you get shot down, if that is what happens. It is amazing how much less traumatic being told to take a hike is without a roomful of drunken friends around to pretend they didn't see it. If you're a woman you can say, "yes" to dinner with a possibly interesting stranger, or even hit on him yourself, without wondering if your sister will think you are becoming desperate or easy. At last the whole damned world doesn't have to be your duenna.

Just because one meets someone on the internet does not change the social niceties of dating, it just speeds it up enormously. The ritual is the same as before, just more electronic. First you correspond on the dating site. Then if she thinks you are promising, she will invite you to write to her on her regular email. It is easy to get confused here because you no longer have her profile where you can see it by clicking on it. G_d help you if you get Quail #1 confused with Quail #3 in the transition. I use Gmail because the contact list enables me to put the aforesaid quail's picture on her email contact, and most of her profile information with cut and paste. (Another example of my not being as dumb as I act.)

From changing to regular email it is a small step to exchanging telephone numbers. Because of the tradition that strangers met on line are all axe-murderers or at least stalkers until proven otherwise, the man gives his phone number to the lady rather than the reverse. Which is ridiculous because everyone has cellphones and the caller's number is there on the phone as soon as she calls. But tradition is tradition, and not be dismissed

lightly.

She calls, you converse, she establishes that you are not a dangerous wacko, and, as best you can, you ascertain that she is not an airhead. Then comes the pregnant pause when she expects you to invite her to dinner. Unless you are doing this just to find a way to waste your time and hers, you will invite her to the most expensive restaurant you can possibly afford, one that will put your credit card over the limit. The reason for doing this is that it works.

Somewhere between the first and third or fourth date she will make a move, or give you a look that says you should. Act surprised. She is a good girl and she is making an exception for you. Since the man never knows when, or if, this is coming, the surprise is to some extent genuine.

I know I was surprised when late in 2007 after Thai food, Rhonda, instead of moving toward her car invited herself to come in. I am, or was, such a simpleton that I didn't know why. It was a first date. First the couch, then the bed. Hooray! Much to my surprise, and Rhonda's, we stayed in the bed for 22 hours, little of it sleeping.

Rhonda is an interesting woman who has had an interesting life. After failing to pay attention during four years at the University of Chicago, on a dare she slept with one of her boyfriend's friends. She went on to marry the lad, a Chinese-American Harvard architect, and live with him in San Francisco for 35 years. They raised a beautiful and talented adopted daughter together. He designed and built a spectacular house with a commanding view of San Francisco for them.

All along Rhonda felt something was missing in her life, something important. But she felt it

was her fault and spent lots of her time and her husband's money on intensive and endless therapy, and immersed herself in being a good wife and in raising their daughter. They had an often tumultuous marriage during which they had as many as 5 therapists simultaneously (one for each parent, one for the daughter, a couples counselor, and a family therapist).

When the parents of the no-longer-young architect had both died, he came out at last -- at 65. At 60 Rhonda learned what had been wrong with her sex life -- for 35 years she had been sleeping with a man who did not desire her. He moved out, leaving her in the lovely four level house. Rhonda set out to make up for 35 years of sexual deprivation. That was when I answered her singles ad.

I had been sleeping alone since the abrupt and welcome third departure of The Girlfriend (she loved announcing that she was leaving and never coming back, flouncing out, then coming back a day or two later so she could do it again. I finally closed the door behind her.), so I had some deprivation to make up myself. It took 22 hours in bed to tire ourselves to a stop. On our second date, this time in her lovely house, we didn't get dressed for three days and only stopped when both our backs had gotten too sore to continue. This was going to the palace and schtupping the princess. When her husband came by a day later, he remarked affably that there were condom wrappers in every room of every level of the house. Not bad for a couple of geriatric cases, eh? When pent-up demand meets pent-up demand there will be a lot of coming unpent.

Next month -- Who's out there?

END JOKES

Anger Management

Husband: When I get mad at you, you never fight back. How do you control your anger?

Wife: I clean the toilet bowl.

Husband: How does that help?

Wife: I use your toothbrush.

The year's first 'blonde' joke.

Ralph, a handsome dude, walked into a gay sports bar around 9:58 PM. He sat down next to a blonde dude at the bar and stared up at the TV.

The 10:00 PM news was coming on. The news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Ralph and said, "Do you think he'll jump?" Ralph says, "You know, I bet he'll jump." The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't."

Ralph placed a \$20 bill on the bar and said, "You're on!" Just as the blonde placed his money on the bar, the guy on the ledge did a swan dive off the building, falling to his death.

The blonde was very upset, but willingly handed his \$20 to Ralph, saying, "Fair's fair. Here's your money." Ralph replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5 PM news and so I knew he would jump."

The blond replied, "I did too; but I didn't think he'd do it again."

The Scot

A particularly thrifty Scotsman, proud of his lifelong prudence, was on his deathbed. His family gathered round to share his final moments.



"Wife where are you?" he asked

"I'm here my darling," she replied, taking his hand.

"Son where are you?" he wheezed.

"I'm here too Dad."

"And daughter, where are you?"

"I'm here Dad, right by your side."

"OK," says the old man."So if you're all here, why is the light on in the kitchen?"

Parting Thought

"Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm." - Samuel Taylor Coleridge

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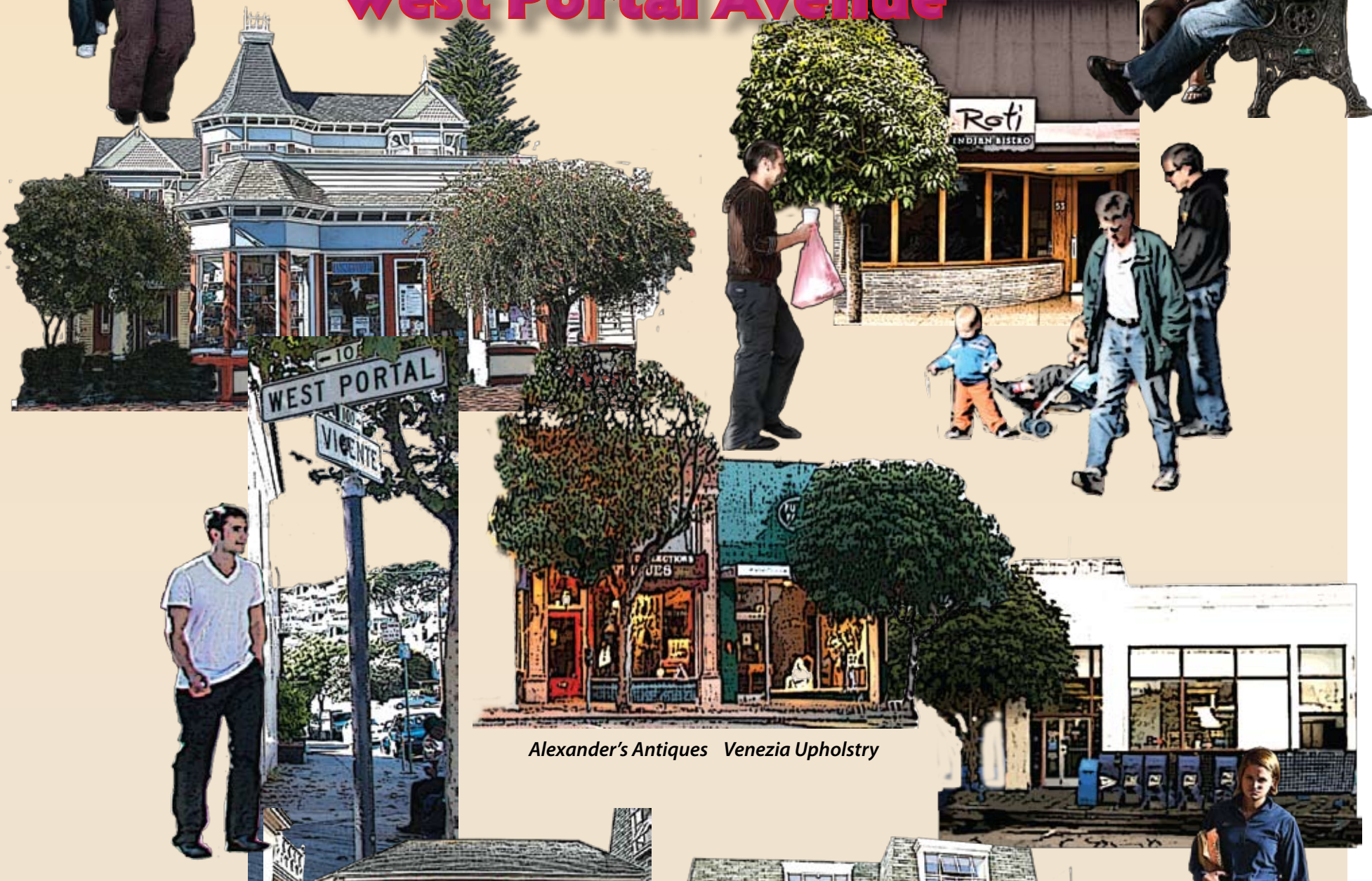
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