

# West of Twin Peaks OBSERVER

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RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER CITIZEN SUPERVISOR

## Domestic Violence

by Quentin Kopp



Since becoming a judge on February 1, 1999, I have learned that one of the most vexing aspects of modern society and the administration of criminal justice emanates from domestic violence. As the Honorable James P. Fox, San Mateo County District Attorney, has stated it is “often defined as a pattern of behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.” In San Mateo County Superior Court, in which I continue to preside over criminal and civil trials as a retired judge in the Assigned Judges Program (which means on assignment by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court), about 1,000 domestic violence cases are prosecuted annually. Prosecution culminates a lengthy, costly and time-consuming process which commonly commences with a 9-1-1 call to a police department or, in 57 counties, to the Sheriff. (The Sheriff of the City and County of San Francisco performs custodial duties only, either in the county jails or in courtrooms.) The report of a complaining victim of domestic violence is investigated either immediately upon a telephone call to the dispatcher, or soon thereafter as possible. Often the investigation involves interviews with many persons, not just the victim. Sporadically, it involves further violence aimed at a responding law enforcement officer or percipient witness. It invariably results in a police report which, in turn, requires time and concentration by a responding law enforcement officer. Occasionally, a supplemental investigation and police report result.

If the facts warrant it, the domestic violence complaint is transmitted to the county district attorney. A deputy district attorney reviews the written police report(s) and interviews investigating officers and witnesses before filing a complaint. Domestic violence can be treated as a misdemeanor; more often, it constitutes a felony, necessitating a preliminary hearing in which the district attorney’s office offers testimony of the investigating officer and perhaps one or more other witnesses to convince a Superior Court judge, acting as a magistrate, that a public offense has been committed and there is sufficient cause to believe the defendant guilty. The judge then orders the defendant to answer within 15 days to an information which must be prepared anew by the district attorney, filed with the clerk of the Superior Court and delivered by copy to the defendant’s attorney. In 90% of domestic violence cases, the defendant claims financial inability to engage an attorney. Under constitutional law, the court must appoint an attorney to represent him or her at the defendant’s first appearance in court. In San Francisco, that means the public defender; in San Mateo County it means a private lawyer from a panel of lawyers maintained by the county bar association. In any event, it entails more taxpayer expense.

The prosecutor and the defendant’s attorney then exchange pertinent documents and other information before a trial scheduled by a judge. Further trial preparation by both the district attorney and public defender occur. The court’s jury commissioner sends letter notices to numerous citizens, summoning them to the Hall of Justice on the date of trial. (All citizens, except law enforcement officers, are subject to jury service in the case. That includes judges, doctors, carpenters, technicians, professors, students, childcare workers, counselors, candlestickmakers.) The jury commissioner then assigns approximately 60 such citizens to the courtroom in which the trial occurs.

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## Taggers Hit West Portal

By Mitch Bull

Vandals using spray paint cans tagged the West Portal Avenue and Junipero Serra Boulevard areas with a barrage of graffiti, upsetting residents, damaging storefronts and creating an environment that will prove costly to the city and local merchants.

The damage, which occurred during several days in late May, was widespread and affected many businesses and property owners in the West Portal corridor. Residents reported the tagging to the SF Police Department, who are still conducting an investigation to find the groups that are responsible. At the West of Twin Peaks Central Committee meeting in May, Sgt. Randall Young of the Taraval station told the concerned residents that the SFPD has a file with over 24000 different



“tags” and the department would be comparing the new graffiti with their records to try and find out who defaced the property.

Cynthia Pagan, President of the West Portal Merchants Association told the Observer, “The police are being very responsive to this problem and are partnering with us to try and catch the people responsible and help to ensure that this type of thing doesn’t become a regular occurrence”. The owner of the “Just Because Gift and Card Shoppe” went on to explain that the problem with graffiti tagging is that if it is not cleaned up by the merchants and property owners it helps to create a “self perpetuating” situation where the vandals think it is OK to come back and re-tag the storefronts. (Cont. p. 11)

## Audit the Health Department

by George Wooding

How can it be the City Controller has never performed a full financial audit of San Francisco’s Department of Public Health (DPH)?

In November 2003 voters passed Proposition C expanding the Controller’s audit responsibilities, requiring two-tenths of one percent of the City’s budget be diverted to performing audits. Mayor Newsom’s proposed \$6.5 billion 08-09 budget should dedicate \$13 million for audit services.

Since Prop. C’s implementation in July 2004, DPH has been required to set aside approximately \$8.6 million over the past four fiscal years for Controller audit services. DPH is required to set aside an additional \$3 million for audit services from its \$1.5 billion 08-09 budget. How has DPH’s \$12 million audit fees been spent?

Both San Francisco property owners and renters must demand a comprehensive financial audit be performed on DPH before voting on November’s gigantic general obligation bond measure to rebuild San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH). It’s almost three times larger than any bond measure in San Francisco’s history, likely to cost \$1.7 billion dollars, assuming zero future cost overruns.

DPH is San Francisco’s largest and most financially irresponsible department. Every bond measure DPH has been involved with has either been massively reconfigured after opening (the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility), or has been substantially reduced in scope. Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) has been reduced from a planned 1,200 beds to only 780. Although LHH’s rebuild is now smaller by 420 beds, the 780 beds to be constructed are currently forecasted to cost \$642 million dollars, \$241 million dollars –or 60%-- over the initial budget; yet cost overruns continue rising [Editor’s note: See accompanying article].

Having over 7,000 employees (6,000 full-time equivalents), DPH consumes \$1.5 billion, or 23 percent, of the City’s \$6.5 billion budget. Additionally, two-thirds of San Francisco’s

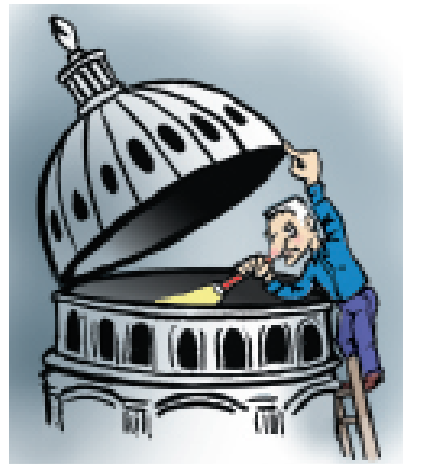
\$1.5 billion discretionary budget goes to DPH. San Francisco spends more per person annually on public health than other cities by a huge margin: In 2005, San Francisco spent approximately

\$400 on every man, woman, and child — six times more than the \$64 national average. If the SFGH bond passes, per capita public health expenditures will skyrocket.

Never subjected to a comprehensive audit, DPH misspends voters bond money as it pleases, since DPH administration has zero respect for voters. After receiving bond financing, DPH routinely changes project parameters, redirecting bond funds to pet projects, salaries, and special-interest health groups. Voters were originally told LHH’s rebuild would be a long-term care facility for frail, elderly, and disabled San Franciscans. LHH’s mission was recently changed to serve 90-day, short-term stay rehabilitation patients. Money earmarked for LHH’s rebuild is being diverted to shipping patients back into the community or to out-of-county placement, given the shortage of appropriate local housing. DPH’s recent mid-year budget cuts and next year’s budget eliminate community services to LHH residents being dumped into the community. This isn’t what 139,000 voters approved passing LHH’s 1999 rebuild bond.

SFGH’s deceptive bond measure is riddled with hidden costs: \$30 million preparing the bond; \$887.4 million to construct the replacement hospital; \$157 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment; and \$640.3 million for debt service, totaling over \$1.7 billion. But there’s hidden costs: Back-up generators to power the hospital. Cost: Unknown. Anticipated campus master planning activities, including seismic retrofit of 462,935 gross square feet in six existing

Cont. p. 11





ANOTHER FAMILY EXODUS IS ANOTHER SAN FRANCISCO LOSS

By Tony Hall

Many of us read the article that appeared in the Chronicle on June 22, “Exodus of S.F.’s middle class” with yet another sense of disappointment and sadness at the ever-escalating trend for families to leave the City. San Francisco is again at a crossroads

Why does this unhealthy deterioration of our social fabric continue? According to the article, it is primarily due to ever-rising cost of homes and real estate that is transforming our City into a “Disneyland for yuppies.” A city in which only households of at least two high income wage earners can exists. I say it is due to much more than that.

Could it be that San Francisco is losing the very spirit that drove so many people here to start with? How many of our predecessors came here with the vision of a place where they could live in relative harmony, in a “live and let live” life-style, with people of diverse backgrounds and make-up, in an atmosphere of excitement and beauty, and hope that the future they would carve out for themselves and their families would be enduring, enriching, and affordable? How many of us with moderate incomes and growing families’ hope that the “Spirit of San Francisco” is alive, in spite of the constant assault on family living?

The barrage of rising fees and costs that our local government is imposing on our daily lives is almost as if our City leaders have declared war on the “Family Lifestyle.”

Consider these facts:

- San Francisco has the highest cost per capita of any City in the country for its municipal government and for questionable services at best.
- Our budget is higher than that of 20 states.
- We have one City worker for every 26 residents – the highest ratio in the country.
- Our education system is bankrupt and has gone from top ranked nationally to embarrassingly low, and still engages in reapportionment, depriving youngster’s admittance to their school of choice.
- The Department responsible for protecting our families is in constant turmoil and disarray, unable to lower one of the highest crime rates in the country, despite having our very able young men and women eager to join to protect and serve.
- Households with multiple members pay a disproportionate share of water and utility costs.
- Skyrocketing permit and other fees, not to mention parking fees and meter tickets that discourage patronage, besiege families and small businesses.
- Little league and youth sports must now compete with non-recreational activities to utilize our parks that are in dire need of repair and maintenance.

AROUND THE TOWN...

Comings and Goings...

Copperfield’s Stationers, a fixture at 254 West Portal Avenue for 23 years closed their doors at the end of May as the owners decided to retire. The storefront was not vacant for long as Back to Sports Fitness and Therapy moved from their current location at 342 West Portal to the larger space formerly housing Copperfield’s. The larger space will allow them to provide more expanded services to their clients. The center is a full service fitness and therapy location with personal training, physical therapy and chiropractic services available, in addition to the large compliment of fitness machinery.

Cynthia Pagan and her husband, Darren Badong, the owners of “Back to Sports Fitness”, as well as the Just Because Card and Gift Shoppe at 162 West Portal, are excited about moving the Fitness center to the new space because it allows them to retrofit the space at 342 West Portal into a comprehensive group exercise studio. The



All the while, this administration has added some 24% new senior executives to manage a city workforce of almost 29,000 for a population that hasn’t increased in decades.

I have no ill will towards the politicians that are in office today. Many of them lack experience, or are in situations that are beyond their control, but they must work for us and with us if we are to see any real change in our City. My experience has shown me that the best type change occurs when people unite together in both spirit and ideas to work for the common good. .

Family is important to me and that is why I chose to serve our city. As a father of seven, I know how legislation can help or hurt family living. As your Supervisor, most of the legislation I authored was geared to encourage family life. I developed Harding Park so that all parks in San Francisco would benefit from the revenue from such a marvelous facility, if managed correctly. I spearheaded the restoration of Lake Merced in hopes that it would be eventual home of the most unique piece of family recreational real estate of any city in the country. I led the rebuild of the new Youth Guidance Center, replete with new educational and vocational opportunities so that our troubled youth may have a second chance. I created the enabling legislation that would have allowed Laguna Honda to continue serving our seniors in need, but unfortunately that mission, too, is now being diverted. To our young start up families, I proposed allowing them to purchase the apartments they lived in from landlords who were willing to sell them to them so that they too may invest in a “piece of the rock.” Our rebuild of Ocean Ave. was a testimony to the good that small business can provide a community. I authored and passed numerous pieces of legislation affecting quality of life, not only for taxpayers, but also the less fortunate and homeless, because they too are part of the common good

Yes, the cost of real estate has escalated, but so has the desire of many families who wish to call San Francisco home if their needs were not neglected. This downward spiral in quality of life here in San Francisco will not be turned around by just declaring enough is enough. We must start demanding “real results” for the common good from those in elective office.

Do not lose faith, lest you lose your spirit! San Franciscans are indeed a unique, tough, wonderful and caring breed. Fortunately, things do evolve and change, but a lot of it depends upon whether you really want it to, or not. Your voice makes a difference, so let it be heard. It is through you that change will occur.

Tony Hall has worked for the city for 30 years and represented District 7 on the Board of Supervisors from 2000 – 2004

new studio “Back to Sports Studio” will focus on group exercises such as yoga, pilates, kick boxing, and aerobics. Eventually they would like to add dance classes in ballroom and salsa to the mix. The opening of the exercise studio is slated for mid-July.

Everyone who is interested in 20th Century art should check out the Frida Kahlo exhibit at SFMOMA. The exhibit consists of approximately 75 of Kahlo’s works, as well as photographs of her and her husband, the muralist Diego Rivera. An interesting side note is that Rivera and Kahlo lived in San Francisco in both 1931 and 1940. During 1940 they were remarried at City Hall, after being divorced in 1939. While Rivera was the more famous artist during their lives, it may be Kahlo’s intense pieces that will be longer remembered. The exhibit runs through September 28. The best way to get tickets is online, as admission is timed due to the large turnout of people visiting the museum. Visit the SFMOMA website for more information.

Gavin's Gubernatorial Gambit



Letters to the Editor

Thank you for covering our important recent community victory at City Hall’s public hearing of the Planning Commission regarding the overdevelopment project at 2800 Sloat (as mentioned in your June 08 headlining article titled, “Outer Sunset to Lose John’s Ocean Beach Cafe.”). I’m Margarete Lee, the second-generation outer sunset district resident that was mentioned in your article.

It’s great to get good local coverage of this important issue impacting a small community in the outer sunset district. Many feel that we’re often overlooked by being in the outskirts of the city. So we greatly appreciate this article informing the public and affecting other small communities. And it’s wonderful that you cited the important facts of the developer not meeting many of our city’s planning and zoning codes.

Could you please also advise on where I may be able to pick up a couple of copies of your latest edition? I saw that the Tennessee Grill is a local sponsor with advertising in your paper. Does the Tennessee Grill receive your paper... or can you please mention other locations?

Margarete Lee, Outer Sunset

Editor’s note: There is a list of cooperating merchants on page 11, but if you have an alternate location thatmight carry our paper, please let us know.

I walk my dogs on Lansdale and Robinhood Drive. Since last weekend’s delivery I have picked up at least 25 copies of the WTPO in the street and not even close to a driveway. They just become another piece of litter, and your publication is not reaching your readers. I thought you’d want to know.

Tim Bridge, Robinhood Drive

Editor’s note: Thank you for the info, we need feedback from everyone we serve to improve your service.

Send Letters to: tpobserver@aol.com

Your letters are important to us, if we missed your letter this issue, please send it again for the next issue.

Beer Givaways

Currently, beer manufacturers in California can give away premiums, gifts, and free goods that cost no more than \$.25 each. But Big Alcohol is working overtime to change that. A new bill, AB 1245, would raise the maximum giveaway cost to a whopping \$5.00 per item. At that rate, beer makers would be able to give youth t-shirts, plush toys, glasses, and posters, as well as other high-ticket branded items.

Youth are already overexposed to beer ads during sporting events, on television, radio, the Internet, and on billboards and other new forms of outdoor advertising. But Anheuser-Busch is lobbying hard for the bill. After all, research has shown that the more alcohol advertising messages young people see, the more likely they are to consume the products.

Tell California lawmakers to keep Big Alcohol swag out of kids’ hands.

Visit the alcohol industry watchdog: www.marininstitute.org



PHYLLIS’ FINDINGS

Ladies...have you been to SEX AND THE CITY? Go, you’ll love it! Smart, sexy, funny, clothes to die for! Mick LaSalle of the Chron agrees. The NY Times and New Yorker disagreed. But what do they know?

A few shows that are worth your attention: The Eureka Theater has ended its delightful run of Cole Porter’s OUT OF THIS WORLD but will begin its new season on September 27th with IRMA La DOUCE. The 42nd Street Moon on Jackson Street usually shows old musicals that at their time were not necessarily block-busters, but, as performed at the Eureka, are always lively and exuberant. They’re usually presented as staged concerts with stellar casts. Call 255-8207 for information on their upcoming season.

Included in the 2008-2009 season at Eureka is Gershwin’s GIRL CRAZY, BEN FRANKLIN IN PARIS; the BAKER’s WIFE and WILDCAT.

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“What good is sitting alone in your room, come hear the music play!”” Come to the CABARET, my friend”...while it’s at the S.F. PLAYHOUSE through September 30th. This legendary landmark musical turns Weimar Berlin of 1931 into a dark and sexually charged haven of decadence where its extraordinary and morally ambiguous inhabitants are determined to keep up appearances as the real world-outside the comfortable sanctuary of the cabaret-prepares for the nightmarish chaos of war. Sally Bowles performs nightly at the infamous Kit-Kat club...and she’s a wonder to see. The musical was turned into an eight-time Oscar-winning movie starring Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey. Don’t miss the decadence! Music is by John Kander and direction is by Bill English. You’ll love it!

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I was fortunate recently to see Jeff Greenwald, a prolific traveler and writer, recently at the Marsh on Valencia Street, regale us with his “Strange Travel Suggestions.” Jeff explains the difference between a tourist (which most of us are) and a traveler, who explores unusual towns, villages and countries in a myriad of ways.He tells riveting stories of his visits to Iran, India, Nepal and other places that most of us have never been to. He begins his stories by having audience members spin a wheel covered with hieroglyphic-like symbols for 30 topics until they land on stops that trigger an improvised and usually hilarious monologue culled from a lifetime of trotting the globe. He’s an accomplished stage performer and suggested that the rest of us can learn from his storytelling techniques.”People generally want to hear travel stories if there’s something they can identify with - an episode( a stolen passport or transportation nightmare...or food poisoning.”) There should be a beginning, a middle an end as opposed to an anecdote.There’s a setup, a situation and a resolution .Kind of like telling a joke, in that timing is almost as important as content.The only other monologist I enjoyed as much as Jeff Greenwald was the legendary and neurotic New Yorker, the late Spalding Gray. Also born in New York City, Jeff is the consummate story-teller and while you may have missed him this time at the Marsh..I’m sure he’ll be back again, and his many travel books are available through Amazon.

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Act’s latest...and final for the season, is “TIS PITY SHE’S a WHORE.” It rages with enough, blood, lust and retribution to make any dictator look like a saint. Siblings have sex, poison flows, a sweet old lady forfeits her eyes to the sharp end of a poker...and strangely enough, I thought this heavy show was quite interesting. The plot follows the disastrous fallout of an illicit sexual union between a wealthy Italian citizen’s son and daughter..(played by Rene Augesen and Michael Hayden). What follows leads to pregnancy and the mother-to-be reluctantly marries a rakish nobleman(played by Michael Earle Fajardo). Written in the 17th Century by John Ford and directed by Carey Perloff, this theatrical and ferocious drama-turgy takes place in Parma, Italy and is best seen by those stout of spirit. The large and animated ensemble worked very hard and afterwards at the cast party, Rene (Annabella..the sister) said that “every morning when I get up, I feel as though a roller coaster has gone over me.” See it...it’s worth your time.

We were all given small buttons that said “WHORE” on them....”Tis Pity.” Get there before July 6.

I’ve been on a diet since I was born. Pabulum, Mother’s milk, Heinz baby food was alright for a while but then came fattening stuff. No one spoke about the need for exercise. Up and down on the seesaw was supposed to be enough for a kid...a tricycle helped a bit...but so it went. I never realized then that losing weight was a lifetime effort if you didn’t have “skinny” genes. So I was able to commiserate when I read the drama following the 2004 dismissal of the soprano Deborah Voigt from a production of Strauss’s “Ariadne auf Naxos” at the Royal Opera house in Covent Garden, London. The story had many elements of the work itself: an opera within an opera that blends comic and tragic aspects and caricatures the lofty ideals of high art. Ms. Voigt’s dismissal, because she was too large to wear the cocktail dress stipulated by the director or adhere to his staging concepts, prompted an avalanche of international interest that ranged from buffa laughs about fat ladies singing to ponderous editorials about the meaning of “sacred art” versus Hollywood ideals of beauty.

In the end, as in “Ariadne,” the little-black-dress saga also became a story of transformation:in Ms.Voigt’s case, a verr literal one. After gastric bypass surgery in 2004 and considerable weight loss, a much slimmer and more agile Ms. Voigt was re-engaged by the Royal Opera to sing the title role in the second revival of Christof Loy’s production.

One day on the television screen was an ad for LAP BAND SURGERY...sounded less ominous and involved than BY-PASS SURGERY..so I figured, “why-not?” A phone call later, I got the sad news...I was asked my height and weight and other essentials and the distressing news followed...you have to be OVER 100 lbs. to be eligible...lap-band OR by-pass.Back to the treadmill, the weight machines, the NutriSystem diet...maybe ALLI... one day maybe BAY TO BREAKERS...and while I never planned to be a Diva at the Royal Opera, a lap-band operation sounded



Followship, not Leadership

By Clint Reilly

Do leaders really lead in the political arena or do they follow?

I think our system elects followers and calls them leaders. This creates both a false perception and a false expectation.

The false perception is that politicians have answers to our problems. The false expectation is that politicians will pursue answers to our problems. The fact that neither is precisely true drives Americans’ disillusionment with their government when their expectations are unmet.

I know my analysis is cynical and not universally true. But let me explain how I arrive at my conclusion.

I can still remember a well-known client during my political consulting days saying to me, “Clint, tell me what I believe.”

Contrary to what we are taught in our civics classes, political discourse rarely starts with issue research or personal conviction. It usually begins when a politician commissions a detailed poll to ascertain where voters stand on critical issues and legislation.

Now that large news networks and newspapers conduct their own polls, voters are familiar with polling mechanics and formats. In addition to polls, focus groups pre-test messages and viewpoints to gauge the reaction of real voters in advance.

This “presearch” then shapes the positions of the politicians who commission it. As a political consultant, I wrote countless polls and attended easily a hundred focus groups.

Political communication between elected officials and voters is not an argument about the truth. Clarence Darrow argued facts and made his case to juries. But that’s not how campaign ads work.

Campaign commercials are designed to reinforce what voters already believe; they aren’t meant to educate or provide new information. When a TV commercial contradicts the established beliefs of the viewers, the voters not only reject the message but also the messenger.

Politicians follow public opinion and echo it through campaign commercials, speeches and even legislation once elected. This means that much of the actual discourse between elected officials and citizens originates from the citizens.

That doesn’t make political figures dishonest; it just means their role is different from that of a “leader.” Their contribution is to translate ideas into action. They are what historian James MacGregor Burns calls “transactional brokers” who see the best ideas from disparate factions and forge compromises that move society forward incrementally.



So, are politicians leaders by any true definition of leadership? No.

Politicians are forced to function within the parameters of public opinion. They can push out the edges. But go too far and they find themselves in a graveyard.

Ask presidential candidate Walter Mondale if he was hailed as a hero for telling Americans that taxes needed to be raised. Why, in the face of California’s \$15 billion deficit, is Governor Schwarzenegger or any statewide politician so afraid to raise taxes or challenge the deadly fiscal limitations of Proposition 13?

This may be a relatively new historical phenomenon. Before the advent of the 24-hour news cycle, voters primarily read their information in newspapers. Unable to see events personally, voters relied on elected officials to be their surrogates, to make tough choices in their stead. Character weighed heavily on the scale when voters cast their ballots.

But in the era of constant TV news coverage, voters are overwhelmed with information. Armed with a false feeling of expertise, many voters mistakenly equate ideological agreement with character. In this political jungle, survival depends on mimicking citizens’ views rather than shaping them.

Who, if any, are the leaders of our era?

Our real leaders are in medicine saving life, in the arts celebrating life, and in philanthropy protecting life. Citizens within the environmental movement, computing, biotechnology and architecture fields have produced breakthroughs that are changing the world.

Politicians make the rules. But unlike real leaders, they are rarely allowed to break them.

Clint Reilly writes a column which appears as a public service in every MediaNews Group, Inc. newspaper in the Bay Area each Tuesday and at www.clintreilly.com

real easy...so, anyway, thank heaven for pantsuits...the late, great fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent made them fashionable for stylistic fittings and wearings for the “zoftics” among us! Chic and acceptable everywhere.....ask Hillary!

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OH MY GODMOTHER! is one of the most adorable musicals you’ve seen in a long time. It’s a campy, toe-tapping take on the classic Cinderella tale, but with a fabulous San Francisco twist! The outrageous award-winning original production sold out every performance. It will play Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM and Sundays at 3 PM. It’s written and directed by Ron Lytle. Originally produced at a staged reading of it at the Attarena Playhouse in Alameda.Ca. the response was overwhelming and the production went on to win six Dean Goodman Choice Awards. It may join Beach Blanket Babylon as a San Francisco theatrical icon and it would not be surprising to see this show reach Broadway. To purchase tickets, call Brett Conner at 415-867-3911 at the Zeum Theater. A fun play for all!

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Take a minute to go to Taraval Street Rag YouTube Video since we seldom see this part of San Francisco celebrated in any way. Go to the www.youtube.com and type in Taraval Street Rag and enjoy!



# Newsom’s Laguna Honda Boondoggle

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

Cost overruns continue to skyrocket on the Laguna Honda Hospital replacement project, ostensibly being jointly managed by Department of Public Works and Department of Public Health staff, even while the project’s scope has plummeted dramatically.

As a disciple to his guru, Mayor Gavin Newsom is artfully utilizing Willie Brown’s playbook.

In 2003, former Mayor Willie Brown snatched \$25 million from tobacco settlement revenues (TSR) earmarked to rebuild Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) in order to balance his final City budget, although the tobacco settlement fund wasn’t established to balance City budgets. The eleven then-sitting Board of Supervisors — including Gavin Newsom — passed a special ordinance granting Willie permission to raid the TSR account.

Mayor Newsom just de-appropriated another \$18.3 million of TSR’s from the LHH Replacement Project fund: \$15.2 million to help balance his fiscal year 2008–2009 budget, plus \$3.2 million for funding new community housing subsidies mandated by the Chambers settlement. Newsom has done this without a special ordinance, by simply including the de-appropriation in next year’s Annual Appropriation Ordinance budget.

The guru and his disciple have siphoned \$43.3 million from the TSR account.

Belatedly, Planning for Elders in the Central City (PECC) just requested a full, clear accounting of LHH’s new \$110 million capital budget increase, how the cost overruns occurred, and who is responsible. Following San Francisco’s Capital Planning Committee June 9 meeting, PECC also requested an examination of \$47 million in Certificates of Participation (COP) — a form of public financing bypassing voter approval — for the LHH Replacement Project.

Unlike bond financing, COP’s aren’t considered, and aren’t shown as, City debt; they’re considered repayments of future revenue streams tied to City assets, in this case guarantees against the General Fund as simple payments on leased assets. Public scrutiny of COP spending isn’t required. COP’s can only be applied to debt service payments for capital costs related to the LHH replacement project, including construction and equipment acquisition.

To qualify for leased assets, Newsom and Supervisor Sean Elsbernd suddenly introduced on June 5 a new Ordinance the creates a Property Lease, a separate Project Lease, and a Trust agreement with a Trustee for the LHH

Replacement Project, without explaining the lease terms or why leases are suddenly necessary.

It’s not \$47 million, but \$185 million in COP’s being proposed to complete LHH Replacement Project financing — in addition to the \$420 million already appropriated. Of the \$185 million, \$30 million is believed to be earmarked to service the debt on already existing bond indebtedness; \$110 million for

***Although LHH’s rebuild is now smaller by 420 beds, the LHH Replacement Project team claims the 780-bed project will only cost \$594 million. But the Mayor’s Office of Public Finance has forecasted the total budget to be \$641 million, \$240 million — or 60 percent — over the initial budget, apparently anticipating additional cost overruns. The Project Team’s March 2008 status report also forecasts \$642 million in total sources of funding. No explanation has been made public as to why the current project budget of \$594 million is expected to soar another \$48 million, to the new forecasted \$642 million amount.***

construction; and \$45 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment that former City Attorney Louise Renee had reportedly previously negotiated to be funded from the General Fund to repay Guru Brown’s raid of \$25 million from the TSR account.

There’s no explanation about why \$47 million is now needed to replace the \$25 million, or why \$47 million is now needed for furniture, fixtures and equipment for a facility reduced from 1,200 beds to only 780 beds.

In its March 2008 status report to the Citizens General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (CBOBOC), LHH’s Replacement Project team indicated the Controller had identified \$120 million in COP’s that could be issued using the City’s General Fund as credit, to be repaid using federal revenue. [Note: the repayments are actually made by the State, not the Fed’s.]

Suddenly, without explanation, the amount of COP’s to be issued has surged to \$185 million. The \$185 million in COP’s will cost an additional \$123.7 million in interest, totaling a \$306.4 million increase to LHH’s replacement project.

The true cost overruns of the LHH Replacement Project have been hidden from the public long before September 2007, following repeated cancellations of the Laguna Honda Hospital Joint Conference Committee, a subcommittee of San Francisco’s Health Commission; Health Commission meetings; and CBOBOC meetings. Few LHH-sponsored Town Hall meetings have been held.

The LHH Replacement Project

team’s September 2007 status report to the CBOBOC stated the “forecast at completion” of the then-approved 780-bed project was \$541,168,339, an increase at the time of \$58.3 million.

Six months later, its updated report in March 2008 says the same 780-bed project forecast-at-completion cost is now estimated at \$593,946,602, another increase of \$52.8 million. The two increases total \$111 million above previous estimates.

The March 2008 status report doesn’t describe the many reductions in the scope of the project, including elimination of various programming, and the de-funding of a decade-long-promise to provide \$15 million towards assisted living housing on Laguna Honda’s campus.

The replacement project’s Budget Revision 14 released on March 26 increases consulting services by \$14 million, to a total of \$96 million. It simultaneously reduces actual construction costs by \$16.3 million, and eliminates entirely the \$15 million assisted living commitment, for a total of \$31million in project scope reductions. The reductions had to be made, in part, to finance the consulting services, and a new \$20 million increase to renovate the front section of the current hospital’s administration building. A full accounting of all project cuts hasn’t been described publicly.

Although LHH’s rebuild is now smaller by 420 beds, the LHH Replacement Project team claims the 780-bed project will only cost \$594 million. But the Mayor’s Office of Public Finance has forecasted the total budget to be \$641 million, \$240 million — or 60 percent — over the initial budget, apparently anticipating additional cost overruns. The Project Team’s March 2008 status report also forecasts \$642 million in total sources of funding. No explanation has been made public as to why the current project budget of \$594 million is expected to soar another \$48 million, to the new forecasted \$642 million amount.

In 2007, a City audit of the Department of Public Works pointed to a lack of oversight of projects that leads to project delays and questionable project costs. DPW’s oversight of the greatly delayed LHH replacement project has been pathetic.

Voters should demand a Grand Jury investigation of Newsom’s Laguna Honda rebuild boondoggle to determine who is responsible for the project’s cost overruns and scope reductions.

*Patrick Monette-Shaw is an independent community observer and AIDS accountability research investigator.*

# Newspaper Littering Law Moves Forward

By Mitch Bull

An amendment strengthening the ability of residents to discontinue, or “opt out” receiving handbills or local free newspapers is moving forward through City Hall. The amendment, introduced by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, of San Francisco’s District 5, adds unsolicited magazines and newspapers to the current law regulating the distribution of handbills on private property. Residents complaining about the littering problem that can be created if handbills and periodicals are left to blow in the wind prompted the amendment.

Several of the publishers of the free local newspapers had met to discuss this provision and the delicate task of trying to balance the litter problem with the protection that periodicals are afforded under the First Amendment to the US Constitution involving the ability to conduct (and publish) free speech.

On Monday, June 9th, the matter was taken up by the San Francisco Small Business Commission at City Hall and was attended by several of the community newspapers, as well as Supervisor Mirkarimi. The Supervisor voiced his concern about the littering problem within the city, and agreed to put the “fine and penalties” provision of the proposed ordinance on hold for 1 year to ascertain if a voluntary compliance program with the publishers can solve the problem of excess litter. The amendment would still require each publication to insert instructions that would clearly give instructions to resident that wish to halt delivery and “opt out” of receiving the periodical.

In general, the publishers agree that litter is a concern for everyone, and they are doing what they can to ensure that each of their newspapers is delivered in an efficient manner. They are also willing to discuss the methods of having residents voice their desires to discontinue service and are willing to work with the City to reach an agreement.

After both sides of the topic were discussed, the commission asked the parties involved to schedule a meeting to continue discussion on the proposed amendment, and everyone in attendance agreed that they would continue to meet and discuss the processes for implementing and evaluating a voluntary program.

Depending on the outcome of the ordinance, it could affect the method in which free publications are distributed throughout SF. Alternatives are the curtailing or elimination of free delivery; move towards a (paid) subscription model, or an increase in distribution through newspaper distribution boxes on sidewalks. Either way, the City is holding the publishers and their distribution agents more responsible for potential littering.

The Observer will continue to follow this story and report on the updates from City Hall.

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BUSINESS CORNER

This month we are debuting a new column, Business Corner, that takes a look at one of our local businesses that makes the West of Twin Peaks area special.

THE DOG SPA

By Mitch Bull

Is your canine companion looking a little scruffy; perhaps in need of a flea bath; or just a little pampering? If so, consider booking an appointment for ‘Rover’ or ‘Princess’ at “The Dog Spa”, a pet salon specializing in dogs, located at 169 West Portal Avenue.

Owners Jenny Huynh and Ada Wong opened the salon two years ago with the purpose of providing dog owners with a one-stop venue for cleaning and grooming services for any type of canine (except biting ones...).

The Dog Spa offers a large menu of services such as shampooing, flea treatments, nail clipping and grooming, as well as de-matting and skunk spray de-odorizing and skin treatments.

When asked what sets their business apart from other grooming providers, Huynh explained, “It’s the personalized level of service. I started in this business after I became a pet owner and really enjoyed the care and grooming aspect of caring for my dog. I looked around and there didn’t seem to be many services that provided personalized service for dogs, so I decided to take the training to become a certified groomer and eventually opened the shop with Ada (Wong) who I met through a mutual friend.”

Both Huynh and Wong understand that working with many breeds and types of dogs can provide

different challenges. From puppies having their “first haircut”, to older pets that may be suffering from vision or hearing loss, the two professionals are well prepared to provide their services in a caring and personal way.

In fact, in addition to being “Certified Groomers”, they are also trained and certified in canine CPR and first aid for treatment in case of emergencies.

Providing extra care and a personalized touch also sets them apart from other large grooming services, “It can be a little stressful for the pet client when their owners drop them off for grooming, so we work by appointment only. This gives the pet companion and their dogs a clear window of time (usually about 2 hours) for the grooming or cleaning to occur since we don’t want to just have a pet client dropped off early in the morning and left all day. It’s a lot less stressful for the pets this way”, said Huynh, who added,



Owner Jenny Huynh and her dog TURBO, welcome you to THE DOG SPA

“Sometimes we have cancellations, so if someone needs help in a last minute type of situation, we will try to accommodate their needs if we can.”

In addition to the myriad of grooming services, the store also features a large selection of dog accessories such as beds, toys, clothing, leashes, and collars and of course, doggie treats.

The Dog Spa is open 7 days a week, from 10-5, at 169 West Portal Avenue. You can find them by following the doggie footprints on the front window, or by calling them at 415-661-8333. They also are accessible through their website @ www.thedogspasf.com.

JROTC School Board Decision

When Ideology Comes Before Students, Schools Lose.

By Johnnie K. Wang

On June 26, the Board of Education called its second Special Meeting in two weeks to re-vote on a resolution that failed to pass during the first Special Meeting the week before. The Board chose to re-interpret its own procedures and precedent to guarantee a passing vote for this resolution. The meeting was scheduled on a short notice when both board members who support JROTC, Hydra Mendoza and Kim Shree-Maufas, were out of town. The public did not have a fair hearing. This underhanded political move not only hurt the students, their program, and the schools, but it significantly undermined what’s left of the school board’s reputation and will force them to reopen all 3-3 failed resolutions.

Eliminating P.E. credit for JROTC is fiscally and operationally a nightmare for our 7 high schools: Burton, Balboa, Lincoln, Lowell, Mission and Washington. Since freshmen and sophomores must take classes awarding PE credit, we are assured that PE classes will swell and JROTC enrollment will fall drastically. The very tight 2008-2009 school budget was approved without any room for extras. Schools are desperately trying to hire more P.E. teachers and figure out how to accommodate these extra students with existing school facilities.

Jill Wynns informed the Board that the school sites cannot accommodate more PE classes, especially at two of the largest high schools (Lincoln and Washington) which are under construction. The master schedule for next fall has been set and students have selected their schedule. Principals are away for the summer so nothing can happen until they come back in late August.

(Cont. P. 10)

CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO
FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AUGUST 18TH



Space is still available in many courses this Fall semester at City College of San Francisco’s Ocean Campus located at 50 Phelan Avenue (corner of Ocean Ave.). Instruction begins August 18th. Credit courses are just \$20 per unit. See sampling below and/or visit www.ccsf.edu

CREDIT COURSES

Table with 5 columns: CRN #, Course Title, Days, Times, Room #. Rows include African American Art History, Air Cond & Refrigeration, Briefings in Biotechnology, Career Success/Life Planning, Color, Comp Aided Drafting I, Demystifying the Middle East, Documentary Tradition, Drawing (Basic), Early Childhood Admin, East Asian Lit in Film, Elec Measure & Passive Circuit, Emerging Diseases, Engineered Plumbing Systems, Environmental Studies (Intro), Exploring Neuroscience, Figure Drawing (Advanced), Figure Drawing (Begin), Film History, Fine Art Itaglio Printmaking, Fine Art Printmaking, Fine Art Relief Printmaking, GIS (Intro), Illustration (Intro), Illustration in Color, Islam (Intro), Jazz & Other Popular Piano, Labor Drama Workshop, Labor Relations in Childcare, Latin Worker in Americas, Mfg Processes (Welding).

Table with 5 columns: CRN #, Course Title, Days, Times, Room #. Rows include Mfg Processes (Welding), Metal Arts (Begin, Interim, Adv), Monoprint (Begin), Monoprinting (Adv), Monoprinting (Interim), Nutrition (Elem), Observing Young Children, Orientation to Education, Pacific Islanders, Philippine Humanities, Piano (Begin), Pilipino (Conversational), Poetry for the People, Programming with Online Data, Secondary Sup Field Exp, SF Opera Previews, Stage Band, Technical Drawing (Intro), United Nations (Intro), Voice (Singing, Interim), Watercolor Painting (Adv), Watercolor Painting (Intro), Western Art History, Woodwinds, Working People’s History.

CREDIT SHORT TERM COURSES

Table with 5 columns: CRN #, Course Title, Days, Times, Dates, Room#. Rows include Asian Humanities, Bird Illustration, Career Success, Childcare Worker Rights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 415.452.5101 OR VISIT WWW.CCSF.EDU



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Spraying DOA

It's time to pause and be thankful for what we have achieved by coming together as ordinary people and standing up for what is right. We stopped the spray!

While we are waiting to learn more about the rest of the program we should recognize those that still must endure hardship due to the LBAM eradication program: our farmers, nurseries and agricultural communities. Nobody wants our succes to be a burden on others. Going forward we need to review the remainder of the program and ensure that our environment and public health and safety will continued to be protected.

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THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

The Pevensie foursome (Peter: the eldest: William Moseley; Susan: Anna Popplewell; Evan: Skandar Keynes; and youngest, Lucy: Georgie Henley) find themselves transported back to a Narnia that is having a rough era. In Narnian time, 1,300 years have passed while hardly a year has elapsed in the Pevensies' lives on earth since their coronation in Narnia. An evil Telmarine leader, Miraz: Sergio Castellitto, covets the throne of his nephew, Caspian: Ben Barnes, and plans to murder countless rebellious Narnians. Aslan, the leonine ruler of Narnia, and the wicked White Witch: Tilda Swinton, each have about two minutes of screen time. Following a slow middle hour come battle scenes that stretch on too long. With the help of centaurs, fauns, badgers, oversized mice and other magical critters, Caspian fights Miraz. Director/co-writer Andrew Adamson tries so much harder than in his earlier effort, but proves that more warriors doesn't necessarily make a better film. Disney-Walden Media 147 min.

THE HAPPENING

Wot's happening? Not much. If the wind blows in New England, you may die in M. Night Shyamalan's new film with mass suicides and crazy deaths. NYC married couple Mark Wahlberg, a math teacher, and wife, Zooey Deschanel, head for the hills. But it's not safe there, either. Betty Buckley turns up as a lonely, independent spinster. Violent/disturbing images; brutal deaths. 20th Century Fox 91 min.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Bruce Banner: Edward Norton labors peacefully in a bottling plant in Brazil, aware that if his blood pressure rises when he gets angry he can turn into the Incredible green Hulk. In the U.S., Betty Ross, his girl friend/lab scientist, played by Liv Tyler, fights to protect and save him. Gen. Ross: William Hurt wants the knowledge of what makes him an angry 15-foot beast to use as a military weapon. Mr. Blue, an eccentric university scientist well played by Tim Blake Nelson, works on a cure. Blonsky: Tim Roth will stop at nothing to destroy the Hulk, even becoming a hideous creature himself. Louise Leterrier directs the engrossing CGI battles as the dueling duo destroy part of Manhattan. Animated violence; tobacco consumption. Universal 114 min.

INDIANA JONE- KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL

A fast introduction when a Nevada nuclear base is invaded in 1957 presents an older Dr. Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford, years later), a prisoner of Soviet villainess Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett) with her steel blue eyes and black bangs and her henchman, Col. Dovchenko (Igor Jijikine) as they seek the Crystal Skull. Soon we meet Mutt (Shia LeBeouf), a motorcycle biker who divides his time between his comb and his switchblade. Mutt shows Prof. Jones a letter from his mother, Marion (Karen Allen), which starts a chase around the campus that ends in Peru. The fine supporting cast features Mac: Ray Winstone, whose allegiances blow with the wind; the college dean: Jim Broadbent; and Prof. Oxley: John Hurt, the crystal skull expert now nutty. The smash-bang finale occurs in the Amazon jungle. Action violence, mild language. Paramount-Lucasfilm 124 min.

IRON MAN

Wealthy munitions inventor Tony Stark: Robert Downey Jr., imprisoned in Afghanistan, creates his Iron Man suit of necessity to escape his captors. Back in the States, he finds it's going to come in handy while fighting off his enemies. His workshop is beneath his cliffside Malibu lair where his assistant, Pepper Potts: Gwyneth Paltrow, keeps the bachelor-industrialist in

order. He's lucky to have a friend, Col. Rhodes: Ter-

Now at the Movies

Don Lee Miller

ence Howard, in the military to cover his back. His mentor Obadiah Stane: Jeff Bridges proves to be a handful. Director Jon Favreau delivers humor, intelligence and plenty of action to make Marvel proud its comic book hero has reached the big screen. Sci-fi action violence. Paramount-Marvel 120 min.

KUNG FU PANDA

In this children's animated flick, a bumbling panda waiter, Po: voice of Jack Black, takes the challenge to become national kung fu champion, Dragon Warrior, of China and save the country from poverty. His red raccoon teacher-Master Shifu: Dustin Hoffman, guides him through the perils of battle with the Furious Five: tigress: Anjelina Jolie, crane: David Cross, mantis: Seth Rogan, viper: Lucy Lui, and monkey: Jackie Chan. Somehow, the story seems fresh, despite the labored fat jokes, and is certainly entertaining. DreamWorks animated 88 min.

MONGOL

Between 1172 and 1206, Temudgin, the nine-year old son of a khan grows up to become fair leader of all khans in Mongolia and is named Genghis Khan. His father plans an alliance with another tribe, but his son decides upon a bride, Borte (age ten) from a one-night stop on their journey. After the khan is poisoned, Temudgin is enslaved and forced to wear a neck stock for years. The grown Temudgin, Tadanobu Asano, claims his bride, Khulan Chuluun. His closest friend, Jamukha: Honglei Sun, becomes his most formidable rival. The turbulent equestrian battles are horrific with graphic blood-letting. In contrast, there are intimate love scenes. Directed and co-produced by Sergei Bodrov, the scenery of Mongolia is uniquely beautiful, like no where else in the world. Academy Award 2007 nominee: Best Foreign Language Film. Bloody warfare. Picturehouse (Mongolian with subtitles) 124 min.

SEX AND THE CITY

Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) and girl friends Samantha (Kim Cattrall), Charlotte (Kristin Davis), and Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) splash Manhattan four years after the end of the TV series.

Carrie plans a BIG wedding to Mr. Big (Chris Noth) at the NYC Main Library. When it doesn't come off as planned, the girls retreat to the Mexico honeymoon cottage and get tans. Upon returning, Carrie hires a new personal assistant, Louise from St. Louis (Jennifer Hudson: who also sings All Dressed in Love). It's all the angst and fashions you expect. Samantha is a H'wd. agent for blond Jerry (Jason Lewis) but lives next door to a Latin lover ! (Gilles Marini) and turns 50. Charlotte and hubby adopt then get a surprise. Attorney Miranda splits with Steve (David Eigenberg as the most sympathetic male). Notice how many plot twists revolve around cell phones. Credit writer/director Michael Patrick King for so much fun starring Manhattan. Language, nudity. New Line 145min.

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**West of Twin Peaks Central Council**  
**NEWS AND VIEWS...**

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC) unanimously elected new officers at their annual meeting on June 23rd. The council, which is made up of representatives from 17 local neighborhood councils and improvement associations, unanimously elected the following members: Don Dutil, President; Carolyn Squeri, Treasurer, Rae Doyle, Secretary and George Wooding, Parliamentarian. Squeri and Doyle were re-elected, having served the previous terms in their respective positions.

Dutil will take the reins from Denise LaPointe, who had served as President of the Council for the past two years and was termed out. Wooding will step in for Dave Bisho, who was also termed out of office. The council members presented outgoing President La Pointe with a beautiful plaque detailing her service to the organization during her terms as President.

At the meeting, the council's last until September, Aaron Peskin, the President of the San Francisco Board Of Supervisors, was the guest speaker and gave a very positive outlook on the state of the City. Peskin explained to the crowd that although the City has gone through an economy that has in the recent past been overheated, it has now stabilized, and is reasonably healthy, without the dramatic highs and lows of the dot.com and post 9/11 periods. He went on to say that with reserves in excess of \$100M, the City is at the healthiest point that it has been in its history. Of course, there are still issues of revenue generated versus expenditures that the Board grapples with on a daily basis.

Peskin then spoke about the upcoming election ballot in November and why he feels it will be a "once in a lifetime" type of election with a turnout that could exceed 70% of registered voters. The excitement wrapped up in

the Presidential vote will also be evident in the statewide and local propositions and initiatives, that could have a far-reaching effect on city revenue and expenses.

There may be several items on the ballot to address taxes such as a reworking of the business payroll tax codes to close loopholes where businesses can avoid taxes by not claiming "partnership" allowances in certain businesses, as well as changes in the Real Estate Transfer taxes. Revisions in these two areas could bring the City as much as an additional \$35M per year in revenue. The ballot is sure to be good reading as many other propositions are bound to be formulated prior to the deadlines for submittal and printing of the ballot materials.

In other WOTPCC news, letters were sent out by the council board to City Hall and the MTA respectively to voice support for both the Charter Amendment for a Ratepayer Advocate position on the SF PUC, as well as the continuation of MUNI bus routes on the Westside that are in danger of having the services severely reduced or terminated.

It was reported at the meeting that a new type of neighborhood scam is being inflicted upon unknowing residents, where an attractive girl/woman will go door to door using the story of "being a friend of (insert name here) and we are collecting so that the (insert school name here) student band, leadership group, etc. can go on our trip to Europe, Washington, DC, etc. Several people contributed only to find out later that these persons are scam artists. If someone should attempt this in your neighborhood ask for documentation, a telephone number to call the organization. If they are legitimate, they will arrange a time to come back if they are interested in collecting for a true reputable cause.

*The next meeting of the WOTPCC will occur on Monday, September 22 at the Forest Hills Community Club House at 7:30 PM.*

**What I say....**

The meeting was almost over. My friend leaned over and whispered, "Why didn't you listen? You spent the whole time text messaging. I saw it!"

Text Messaging? No Way!

What she saw was a furious blur of thumb motions.

Remember what we learned in biology? The ability to grasp objects between the thumb and the finger is a skill that distinguishes us from other primates.

Everyone now talks about new skills for the 21st century. Thumb Usage for the 21st century is now at the top of the list.

But I digress. Back to text messaging. No Way. No How.

That furious blur was note taking. I love collecting quotes. And hopefully, good quotes.

The trick then is to convert them into day-to-day conversation.

Someone complain to me about taxes? Hmmm:

"Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Are you a little depressed?

"We are the possible." "We are the rainbows in somebody's clouds." *Maya Angelou*

Perhaps a comment on the state of education.... What we really need is for our kids to spend more time

**EDUCATION**  
**& OTHER GOOD STUFF**  
*by Carol Kocivar*

memorizing facts! Let's see:

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." *Albert Einstein*

I keep a little note pad and every time someone turns a phrase that I like, I jot it down.

Conventions. Meetings. Trainings. Thumbs twirling. I capture the lilt with 21st century skills.

A documentary on Leonardo Da Vinci:

Minute by minute, today becomes yesterday.

An administrator's professional development:

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. *John Quincy Adams*.

A favorite for almost any occasion:

Goals are dreams with deadlines.

*Diana Scharf Hunt*

And now, as anyone with a thorough history of American Cinema would say:

That's All Folks.

NOTE: first used at the end of a 1930 Warner Bros. Looney Tunes cartoon spoken by Bosko.

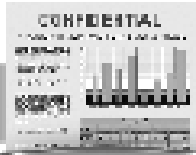
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July / August 2008

# Calendar

**Dale Chihuly June 14–Sept 28 | de Young Museum, GG Park**

Chihuly at the de Young includes eleven galleries of new and archival works representing the breadth and scope of the artist's creative vision over the last four decades. The de Young Museum is the only venue for this exhibition.

A pioneer of the studio glass movement, Chihuly has transformed the form and function of glass, making the Pacific Northwest a vital region in the contemporary art scene.



Installation "Saffron" at the de Young

## FOURTH OF JULY

**T**housands of people jam the waterfront for this all-day, family-friendly celebration. On Pier 39, the party kicks off at 1pm with Big Bang Beat and Tainted Love keeps the party going from 6pm to 9:30pm. Over at Aquatic Park, more live music and kid fun (face painting, clowns) keep the celebration going from there. At 9:30 pm, a spectacular fireworks lasting around 20 minutes.



## ALLAN TOUSSAINT

**Sun. July 6th, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert: New Orleans legend Allan Toussaint Trombone Shorty & Orleans Free

## WINE TASTING

**Sat. July 12th, 4-7 PM** | QUE SYRAH Wine Bar wine tasting with the winemaker from MOSHIN VINEYARDS. 230 West Portal Ave. 731-7000 info

## 1901 WATERFRONT STRIKE

**Sat. July 12th, 12-1pm & 3-4pm** | Hyde St. Pier | SF Maritime Historical Park. Reenacting the strike that shut down San Francisco for better pay and working conditions. Adults \$5, under 15 free

## FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday beginning Sat. July 12th, 10am-2pm | Parkmerced Corner

of Serrano and Aballo

## PUA-LLOSA POETRY READING

**Tue. July 15th, 7pm** | Pulitzer-nominated Cuban-American poet RICARDO PAU-LLOSA reading from his poems PARABLE HUNTER at BOOKSHOP WEST PORTAL. 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080 info

## RACHEL KUSHNER, AUTHOR

**Thu. July 17th, 7pm** | Author RACHEL KUSHNER will read from her debut novel "Telex from Cuba" at the BOOKSHOP WEST PORTAL 80 West Portal Ave 564-8080 info

## ETHAN CANIN, AUTHOR

**Fri. July 18th, 7pm** | Best selling author ETHAN CANIN will be reading from his book America America at BOOKSHOP WEST PORTAL 80 West Portal Ave. 564-8080 info

## RACHID TAHA / STERN GROVE

**Sun. July 13th, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert Series - French-Algerian artist Rachid Tata; LA band; MC Rai - Free

## NEW DEAL IN THE SUNSET

**Tue. July 15th, 7-8pm** | Gray Brechin on the effects of the New Deal in the Sunset, including the West Portal Library built by the WPA in 1939 (restored in 2007) at the West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way/Ulloa.

## ART AS MEDITATION

**Wed. July 16th, 7-8:30pm** | Therapist-

Artist Linda Shanti McCabe, M.A. works with adults, children and people recovering from addictions. Guided meditation, drawing and writing. Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St./22nd

## LINES BALLET/PHAROH SAUNDERS

**Sun. July 20-26th, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert Acclaimed Dance Ensemble Alonzo King's LINES Ballet (featuring jazz great Pharoh Sanders) Free

## N.E.R.T TRAINING / MIRALOMA

**Sat. July 21st also, 28, August 4, 11, 18, and 25 630pm-9:30pm** | at Miraloma Community Church Hall, 480 Teresita/Arroyo. . SFFD NERT and SF SAFE want you to have skills to be prepared for emergencies big or small, and get to know your neighbors on your block to maximize resiliency after a disaster.

## LATIN ROCK- STERN GROVE

**Sun. July 27, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert The sounds of San Francisco VOICES OF LATIN ROCK ; Samba Da - Free

## N.E.R.T TRAINING/UCSF

**Thu. July 31 and August 7** | UCSF Two Day Intensive Training Parnassus Campus, location to be determined. Register on line: [www.sfgov.org/sffd-nert](http://www.sfgov.org/sffd-nert) or R.S.V.P. to [sffd-nert@sfgov.org](mailto:sffd-nert@sfgov.org) or 970-2024

## BAJOFONDO/SE SI

**Sun. August 3rd, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert Series Argentine and Uruguayan collective BAJOFONDO; and

SI\*SE Free

## ONE HAWAII/STERN GROVE

**Sun. August 10-16, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert Series - Escape to the islands of ONE HAWAII (featuring Na Leo, Ernie Cruz, Kaukahi, One Right Turn and more) - Free

## SF OPERA/STERN GROVE

**Sun. August 17th, 2pm** | Stern Grove Concert Series - San Francisco Opera (featuring soprano Sylvia Mc Nair) Free

## ST. IGNATIUS EVENTS

**Mon. August 20th** | St. Ignatius - Freshman Orientation/Registration 8:45am  
**Tue. August 21st** St. Ignatius - Senior Convocation / Registration 8:30 am  
Junior Convocation / Registration 11:00 am  
Sophomore Convocation/Registration 1:30 pm

## MERCY HS EVENTS

**Mon. August 20th** | Mercy HS 10th and 11th grade Parent and Student Orientation 8:00 am. 9th grade Orientation Retreat 3:pm. 9th grade Parents Dinner 6:pm. **Tue. August 21st** Mercy HS 9th grade Student Orientation 10:am

## FIRST DAY OF CLASS

**Wed. August 22nd** | St. Ignatius • Mercy High School

## FIRST DAY OF CLASS/SFUSD

**Mon. August 25th** | First day of School - San Francisco Public Schools

## Betty Taisch Top Producer



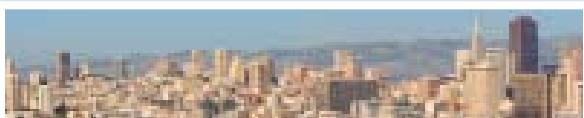
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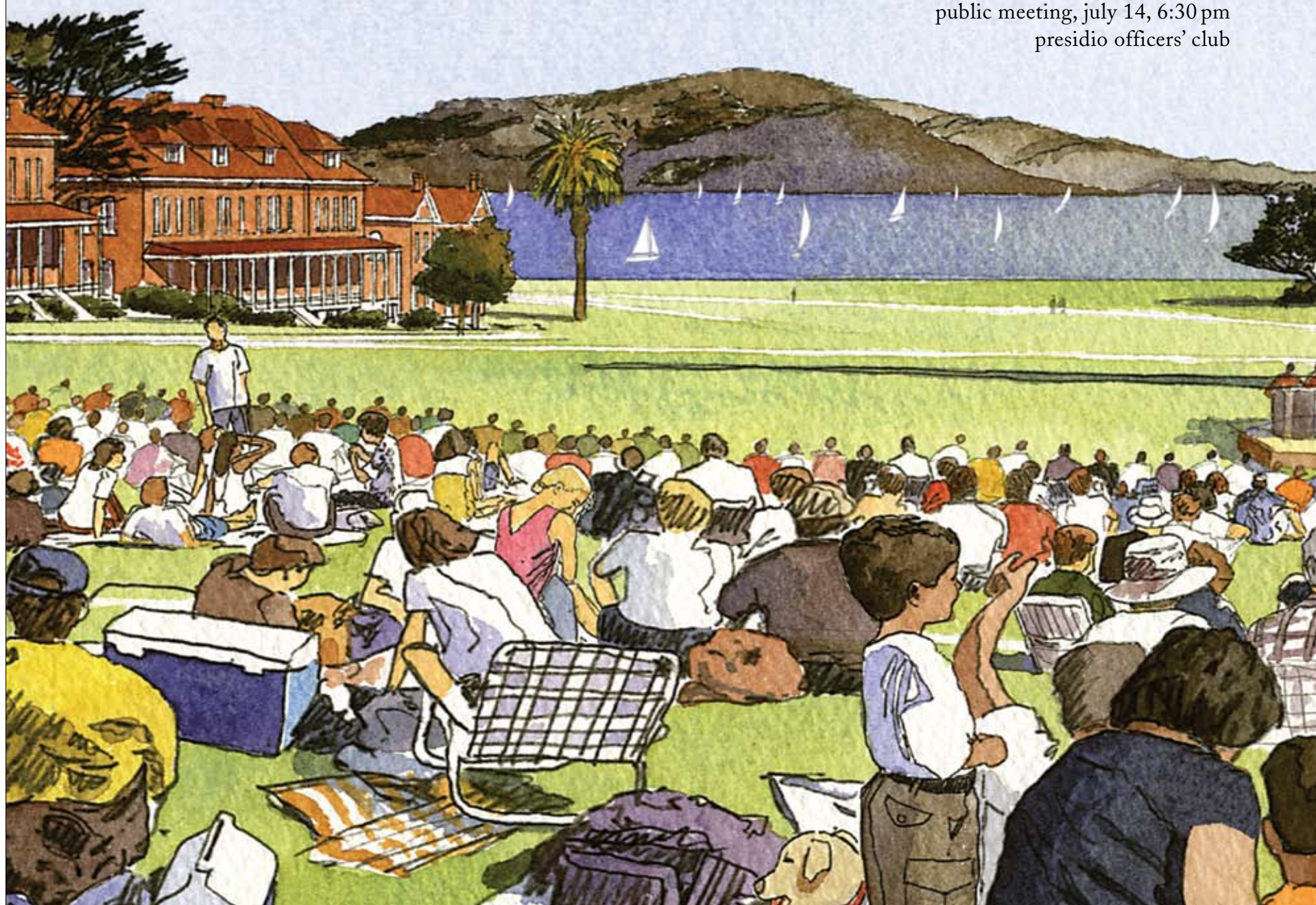
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## Domestic Violence (Cont. from p. 1)

The courtroom clerk calls the roll of all prospective jurors and administers their oath to answer truthfully the questions asked by the judge and respective attorneys. Jury selection is tedious, requiring careful, sometimes repetitious, questioning of potential jurors and alternate jurors. A jury of 12 objective, impartial citizens is eventually selected and sworn in, together with one or two alternate jurors who will be available for substitution if one of the 12 is unable to serve to completion of trial. As can be easily understood, considerable public expenditures have already been incurred. The district attorney then presents the victim for testimony. In some cases, the victim decides not to testify or otherwise cooperate with the prosecutor. Various reasons exist for such refusal, including embarrassment, fear, loyalty. On the one hand, a victim wants cessation of the violence. Prosecutors normally inform the victim that she or he is not the person proceeding with the accusation and cannot order the district attorney to dismiss the case.

If, after all the time, money and effort invested in pursuing the case a victim refuses to testify, since 1991 California law flatly prohibits a judge from ordering incarceration of the victim even if the judge finds the victim in contempt of court for not testifying. In all other types of cases, refusal of a witness to testify, unless constitutionally protected by the Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate one's self, evokes the power of the court to hold the witness in contempt of court and immediately order county jail confinement for a period not exceeding five days, which can be renewed until the witness does testify. That is, however, not the law with domestic violence victim witnesses. With a domestic violence victim witness, the court cannot order imprisonment; instead, the court commonly refers the victim to 72 hours of

domestic violence counseling. Victims of domestic violence are often reluctant to testify because of incomplete information about court process and possible consequences of the criminal case. As noted, they may also fear retaliation by the defendant, but victim advocates can furnish accurate information about court process and aid the victim in establishing a safety plan, which enables the victim to assess realistically the consequence of testifying.

The court can alternatively require the victim to perform a maximum of 72 hours of appropriate community service. If, and only if, the court issues a second finding of contempt of court for refusing to testify, the judge may order county jail confinement for up to five days. Any such order is, however, automatically deferred or suspended for three days to enable the person held in contempt of court the second time to appeal to the California Court of Appeal. As noted by the staff analysis of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety, "...the current system seems to be working and has the necessary checks and balances necessary to provide justice."

Nonetheless, without any data to provide a foundation for the contention that domestic violence victims are commonly imprisoned as a result of refusing to testify against a batterer, a witless local state senator introduced a bill (Senate Bill No. 1356) to abolish entirely the power of a judge to hold in contempt and eventually confine in county jail for up to five days a complaining victim who refuses a court order to testify against her or his batterer. The bill also removes the salutary legal provision of first referring the victim to 72 hours of domestic violence counseling or community service before a victim is called to testify a second time and refuses to do so, thus incurring the possibility of jail confinement for contempt of court.

Noting the abject failure of the bill's sponsors to produce examples of



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## JROTC (Cont. from p.5)

Next fall will be horrendous for students, principals and counselors given the elimination of P.E. credit for JROTC. There is no plan or extra budget to deal with this.

Some real programmatic issues for which parents and the community should be concerned:

- (1) 90% of JROTC cadets are minorities,
- (2) 70% of JROTC instructors are minorities,
- (3) 98% of the JROTC cadets go on to college and
- (4) less than 3% of JROTC cadets enter the military.

The government also funds 50% of the instructors' salaries and 100% of the program expenses such as computers, drum corps instruments, field trips, uniforms, etc.

The Board has also turned its back on government funding. So what has the school board offered to replace this it? Not much. The current recommendation is an ethnic studies program that has yet to be developed and or piloted. And it only addresses a "during" school program. What about an after school program? There is no talk of it, let alone any money to fund it. Where are these students at the 7 high schools supposed to go after school?

Why is the school board targeting JROTC when the cost is so high? The Board claims threats of lawsuits by Public Advocates but no "threat" has been filed nor has there been an intent to file. Is it purely politics? Is the Board catering to the anti-military progressive agenda, which many board members perceive as a springboard to higher office — even though the JROTC is only military by name.

The Board of Education has failed to fulfill their responsibility to the schools and to the community. Rather, they have chosen to follow a political ideology. The School Board should not be a stepping stone to higher office.



Tagged (Cont. from p.1)

At a time when the economy is less than robust, the cost of repairing and cleaning up a damaged storefront can seriously hamper the small business owner

*“To replace glass that has been acid etched by vandalism can cost in the thousands of dollars, and unfortunately many of the shops are just scraping by at the present time”, said Pagan.*

The long-vacant store that used to house “Waldenbooks” seemed to be a favorite target of the vandals, and has been tagged several times over the past several months with little being done to repair the obvious damage to the glass storefront.

When asked for the status of repairs, Jerry Moskowitz, a representative of the Edward Plant Co., says that the ownership is between a rock and a hard place, “The graffiti problem is a big issue as the empty, damaged storefront is ugly, but with the etching of the glass, the owner of the property can’t replace the glass and storefront and have this happen again. We have had some interest in the property but we haven’t yet had success in getting a retail tenant into the space. We hope to have someone in the near future so the damage can be repaired.”

Supervisor Sean Elbernd’s office is also working with the merchants to provide help. In mid-June a representative from Elsbernd’s office, Olivia Scanlon, and John Riley of the SF Graffiti Abatement Department walked the street to see the damage and meet with some of the merchants. Although the City has several “graffiti abatement zones”,

the West Portal Avenue corridor is not included in the list, as it hasn’t had a long term problem with tagging, unlike some of the more heavily traveled urban areas such as Mission Street.

Pagan felt that the walkthrough was important as Riley and Blackstone took photos and documented the extent of the damage and explained that the City would contact building owners and set up a timeframe for repairs. If repairs are not made in a timely manner, the owners can be subjected to fines and citations. The merchants association is hoping to have a “one time” city fix applied to assist with cleaning up the damage in the open space areas that were tagged.

They are also working proactively with local business owners to help in the battle with graffiti by encouraging store owners to partner with their landlords to install a new type of window film that will help to prevent the “acid etching” damage from some sprays.

In addition, within the next week or so, the association will have the sidewalks power washed and the “West Portal” banners reinstalled up and down the street. The banners were taken down from wind damage earlier in the year.

The public can also help in the fight against graffiti by calling 311 to report instances of tagging and to assist the City in documenting any damage that has been done.

In fact, the SFPD has made several graffiti tagging arrests during the past week with the assistance of citizens, who called the station to report a “tagging in progress”. According to SFPD Officer Kevin O’Leary, citizen reporting is the best way to catch the vandals in the act, and help to reduce the problem. All of the arrests involved local juveniles who were defacing property on Junipero Serra Blvd., and Taraval Street.

DPH Audit (Cont. from p. 1)

steel framed, unreinforced masonry/brick buildings. The retrofit of these 93-year-old buildings will occur AFTER the construction of the new hospital, if funding becomes available. Cost: Unknown and open-ended. Add the helipad. Cost: \$6.8 million.

Expect budget trickery. Mayor Newsom’s administration announced June 19 it will return \$9 million for health and human services after suddenly finding “miscalculations” in next year’s City budget. Most of the money — \$6.8 million — comes from General Funds his administration earmarked for SFGH’s helipad. Now Newsom claims the helipad will be funded from November’s bond. DPH increased SFGH’s rebuild cost by \$6.8 million, without increasing the bond amount, already creating project cost overruns. This malfeasance with DPH budget planning is exactly why the LHH rebuild is, at minimum, a quarter of a billion dollars over budget and may rise. Does DPH believe San Francisco voters are idiots, not paying attention, or both?

Douglas Yep, an 18-year employee at SFGH and 14-year resident of District 7, is a candidate seeking to unseat incumbent Supervisor Sean Elsbernd. Yep says he’s basing his campaign on “fiscal responsibility issues, including budget irregularities of LHH’s rebuild fiasco and SFGH’s upcoming rebuild.” Yep has requested a full financial audit of DPH, curious why one has never been performed. While Yep has raised many questions regarding competency of current DPH administrators, Elsbernd — having insider knowledge serving on the Budget and Finance Committee — has remained curiously silent.

Too little, too late, and inadequately, the City just released Controllor Ben Rosenfield’s report on DPH entitled “Performance and Efficiency Review: Department of Public Health.” Rosenfield’s cover letter states “The Controller’s Office has issued this report in response to requests from City leadership and community advocates to audit DPH.” Rosenfield failed issuing a financial audit of DPH; his report merely analyzes DPH’s services, efficiency of operations, patients, and payer mix.

Why won’t the City fully audit DPH? What are officials afraid of finding? A financial audit of DPH may well uncover not only has DPH misspent and misused hundreds of millions of tax-payer dollars, but may also expose DPH’s wide open, dirty secret: That it has failed department-wide to collect hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for greater than a decade due to billing failures that DPH administrators have simply refused to rectify. The City’s fear may be that independent auditors tend to uncover millions mispent, and millions left uncollected.

The LHH rebuild is the worst bond disaster in San Francisco history. It’s time DPH becomes accountable to voters. An independent prosecutor or grand jury should investigate the LHH replacement project. The same top DPH administrators who screwed up the LHH rebuild so badly should be fired for incompetence, not given a second opportunity to screw up SFGH’s rebuild. San Francisco voters shouldn’t hand DPH any more bond financing until a thorough, independent audit of DPH is performed.

Plan voting “No” on November’s \$1.7 billion SFGH bond scheme.



Only the public can prevent graffiti. Call 311 whenever tagging is observed. Owners of buildings are required to clean the damage in a timely manner, or face fines.

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Why Can't I Loose Weight?

Alkalize and Energize  
by Sharon Caren

This information is taken from Dr. Neil Solomon, Dr. Alex Guerrero and Tony Robbins.

Maybe you've heard of pH Balance or maybe not. I became aware of it personally, 10 years ago while searching for answers as to why and how we get sick. Hang in and follow me on this:

In order to live, there must be a balance in our blood, producing an electric force in the body. This is a life giving current and the pH level must stay at a constant 7.36 pH which is slightly more alkaline. If that number shifts by just 1 pH we'd die instantly. Cells can't function and all the organs in the body simply shut down.

This balance is found in the blood. The blood carries oxygen to the entire body and keeps us alive. When the pH balance shifts out of balance, the blood turns more acidic. The acid level in the blood strips away the negative charge around the blood cells and the repelling force between the blood cells lessen. The cells clump together and have a terrible time getting through the blood vessels. The blood moves slower, cells don't get oxygen and the blood suffocates. Can you see how high blood pressure might play out here as well as high cholesterol, maybe? The blood cells also stick together when we are dehydrated...so important to drink more water!

As acid increases, it attacks the blood cells and the cells literally explode. When the cells are very unhappy, the result might be cancer, depression, sickness and diseases of all sorts.

How is the forming of acid happening in the blood?

Emotions—Stress

Diet—Most foods we eat are acid forming. Acid creates mucus, mucus creates inflammation, inflammation creates disease.

Having said all of that, whew, let's become aware of our Emotions. Stress creates acid and an imbalance in the blood, (blood becomes thick and not able to oxygenate the body) which zaps energy, messes up our health and our life.

Overeating can be a result of suppressed emotions, old hurts, unresolved problems in relationships or traumatic

experiences. So we eat more and more trying to fill an empty void inside. We also overeat when our body isn't getting the nutrients it needs to work properly. Much of the time, we aren't eating out of real hunger but our body is literally starving for nutrients, not the constant cravings of chocolate, pizza or a Big Mac. (See the 3 day cleanse below)

Let's change our mind set and start eating to fuel the body. Think of putting gasoline into the fuel tank of the car. First we decide what octane will best run the vehicle safely, regular or supreme. The car can't run effectively or efficiently if the proper fuel isn't used. If we continue to pump more and more gas into the tank when it's full, the gas pours out all over, creating a hazardous and toxic environment. We won't even talk about the dollars wasted due to inflated gas prices

**A weight loss tip:**I just read a book, Dr. Hirsch's Guide to Scentsational Weight Loss, that documents case studies of people sniffing a nasal inhaler before meals and lost between 25 and 100 pounds. On the wick of the inhaler, between 5 to 15 drops of pure therapeutic grade essential oil of Peppermint was dripped. The nasal passage is the only opening to the brain from the outside of the body so inhalation can directly affect the brain. In turn, it affects the body physically, mentally and emotionally. Essential oils help oxygenate the cells of the body. When the brain is stimulated by the high frequency of pure therapeutic oils (the blood of the plant) the body can decide if the hunger is real or not. If not, the urge for food intake turns off. Also, when sniffing 3 times in each nostril before a meal, the urge for overeating diminishes. These people were actually leaving food on the plate for the first time in their lives.

We must eat small meals every three hours. The digestive system handles and processes the food intake more efficiently that way to keep the metabolism burning the fuel (food). We don't want our tank to run on empty. What happens to the car with nothing in the tank? Yep, it Shuts Down!

If you have an interest in sniffing, contact me for the info on purchasing inhalers and oils. This also helps to open sinus passages if you have sinus problems or allergies and it's totally natural!



Some of my clients have reported feeling more energy, clarity, relief from headaches (due to more oxygen getting to the brain) and diminished allergies. Amazing what a little oxygen can do.

**Some Steps to Success** Why do most folks fail to make changes in life? They never get started. Start NOW and create momentum:

- Step 1 – Super hydrate your body (see my last months article)
  - Step 2 – Eat foods high in alkaline and energy
  - Step 3 – Become aware of emotions
- 3 day Cleanse
- 1) Drink 2 liters of water a day
  - 2) Drink at least 2 green drinks per day – wheat grass, spinach, carrot, tomatoes (one drink has over 350 MHZ of energy)
  - 3) Eliminate foods with high acidity from your diet (go to www. for a list of Alkaline foods).

Feel the difference in energy and health by being consistent. This small change will revolutionize your life. The body stores acid in fat cells. When we address the acid/alkaline balance and the body is more alkaline, the fat cells then dissipate and melt away. Restore energy, vitality and happiness back into your life by making a change today.

**Books:** Dr. Hirsch's Guide to Scentsational Weight Loss by Alan R. Hirsch M.D. F.A.C.P.

The pH Miracle for Weight Loss by Robert O. Young, PhD and Shelley Redford Young (pages 212 to 340 How and what to eat).

The Acid Alkaline Balance Diet by Felicia Drury Kliment

**The most important Alkaline Foods:** Essential Fatty Acids, Avocado, Coconuts, Fresh Fish. Seed Oils; flax, borage, hemp, primrose.

Green Vegetables. Broccoli, Spinach, Sprouts

Other Alkaline Foods. Lemons, limes, grapefruit.

Good Grains. Steamed and sprouted – and whole i.e. Quinoa, raw buckwheat. Salt

*Sharon Caren is a Certified Massage and Reposturing Practitioner, Posturist and Licensed Trainer in both body work and essential oils and has been practicing for 10 years. You can learn more about Sharon at [www.sharoncaren.com](http://www.sharoncaren.com) or call her at 650-359-6579.*

How to Stay Safe During an Earthquake

Small tremors occur pretty regularly, but larger quakes that do damage are much less frequent. However, it doesn't hurt to be prepared in case the next quake strikes. It could happen. Here are FEMA's recommendations for surviving an earthquake, with a few additions.

If you are indoors:

DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.

Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.

Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture, window or anything else that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place (i.e. under a desk or in an inside corner).

Use a doorway for shelter only if it is in close proximity to you and if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway. Brace yourself on the side with the hinges to avoid the door swinging at you.

Stay inside until shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.

Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

DO NOT use the elevators, even if they are working. There may be aftershocks.

In a hotel room? Stay there. There may be aftershocks, sometimes worse than the original. Under a desk or in an inside corner of a room is the safest place, even on the 40th floor.

If you are in a restaurant, get under the table.

If outdoors

Stay there.

Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.

(Cont. p. 14)

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## ON THE PLUS SIDE

### The Slough of Despond

by Hank Basayne

I generally think of myself as a cheerful person: basically optimistic, positive, sometimes funny. I like my kids and their kids, I have friends and I live with a pushy, affectionate cat. I read, I watch movies, listen to music, get out and about. I keep pretty busy, which is not always the case for someone ankle deep in his eighties.

So it came as quite a jolt to suddenly realize, a few weeks ago, that I was stuck—emotionally paralyzed. Physically I was all right—just the usual creaks and aches of an aging body. A little slower getting out of a chair, walking a bit more deliberately, no heavy lifting—just the usual. But my habitual sanguine self was absent.

I was spending a lot of time brooding, sitting, staring, recalling past disappointments, failures and losses. I was engaged in making mental lists of the dozens—no, scores—of memorials and funerals I've attended or presided over. Busy compiling lists of the deaths of siblings, close and not-so-close friends, the many people who have been important to me. The Rolodex that gets thinner every year. Cataloging the many relationships that had begun in hope and delight, but ended badly. Jobs and projects where I might have done better. Gloomy thoughts of my own diminishment, decline and eventual death.

These intense feelings of sadness, loneliness and emptiness seemed to feed on themselves, blotting out the sun, generating a paralysis of will that made it seem impossible to take action of any kind. Newspapers piled up, unread. My mail remained unopened. Telephone messages went unanswered. I had no interest—or even awareness—of the world outside of my own swamp of cheerlessness. No concern or access to my usual curiosity.

This was not merely a black mood or a down day; it was a full-blown depression, unexpected, unwelcome and, seemingly endless. I was unable to give equal time to counting my blessings, thinking about what was going well, or the uncountable millions who are so much worse off than I am. All the self-help books, motivational advice,

New Age seminars, treatises on happiness, were useless to me at that time. "Pull yourself together" is usually said to someone who cannot possibly do it at that moment.

Yes, the world is in flames, natural disasters seem to increase in frequency and intensity, wars continue to rage, my beloved country is no longer the simpler, happier, healthier one I grew up in. But the darkness that was upon me was personal—my own—not about the world at large. I was consumed by a sense of vast hopelessness and despair.

And then, after about four days, it disappeared as suddenly as it had arrived. The sun came out. My waves of self-pity subsided and the stirrings of energy and hope and things-to-do took over. I opened the mail, responded to phone messages, got the dishes done and laundry put away. I was back in the world again. While I clearly and vividly remember the horror of that feeling of emptiness, I can no longer find a trace of it in my experience. Should it occur again, I expect I'll recognize it—and remember that I came out of it—and therefore not feel that same depth of hopelessness.

In the latter part of the 17th Century Paul Bunyan wrote an allegory of the trials of his hero Christian on his long journey from earth to heaven. Christian is nearly thwarted while trying to cross the Slough of Despond, a swamp of mire into which he almost sinks under the weight of his sins and guilt. The good news: he does finally make it to the Wicket Gate, the narrow entrance to the Celestial City.

I recognize that chronic depression is frequent among the elderly, but I don't think of myself as usually depressed. Like you, I have my ups and downs, but a few shadows don't make the sun disappear. Although I know there is much less time ahead of me than behind me, I expect the rest of my journey to include some new learning, pleasure and delight. I find the world and the people in it endlessly fascinating. I can still move about. I have plans. I have—this time at least—successfully crossed the Slough of Despond.



## POLICE BLOTTER



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### ALERT!

**There have been instances of criminals impersonating ADT (alarm company) security personnel. If someone arrives at your residence and you have not contracted with them, DO NOT let them in. Contact the company by telephone to confirm.**

yelled at the two suspects to stop but both continued walking briskly with one throwing a marker into a trash bin. The suspects were stopped, found to have evidence in their possession, and one confessed after being advised of his constitutional rights. The suspects, who live on the 1300 block of 35th Avenue and the 100 block of Elbert, were cited for malicious mischief and may be linked to other graffiti offenses on Taraval Street earlier in the evening. Case #080651253

06/22/08 1:00 pm 800 block of Ocean

Officers Michael Mitchell and Francisco Perez responded to the 800 block of Ocean where a woman had been beaten by her husband, slammed against the ground and against an oven numerous times and then had some of her hair ripped from her skull. The victim ran out of the house and called the police with numerous Taraval officers responding to the scene. Officers Justin Quintero, Kevin Mannix, Ronald Choy, Michael Evans and Nelson Yu took the suspect into custody and arrested him on numerous felonies. Case #080652154

### ARRESTS:

06/22/08 3am 1700 block of Taraval

The police were called about two suspects using black and blue markers committing a graffiti offense on a postal truck. Officers Jerome Winesberry, Robert Hamblen and Sgt. Jody Kato responded to the scene with Kato observing two people who matched the description exiting the 7/11 store at 32nd and Taraval. The officers



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**DYLAN THOMAS' UNDER MILKWOOD**

, a poetic Play for Voices about small town characters living their life styles and dreaming of their hopes and ideals is converted into a dramatically viable stage play by stage director Randall Stuart and the cast of the Porchlight Theatre Company. After Thomas, who was essentially a poet and wrote for the BBC and for radio and the cinema, wrote this play he kept reworking it. It may be that he believed that it was still inaccessible to theatergoers whose interest did not lie primarily in verbal and poetic storytelling. Each scene in the play is permeated with Thomas' love for words as he describes the lives of sixteen inhabitants in a small peaceful Welsh town as night falls on a Spring eve. We meet the blind Captain Cat, haunted by the memory of his only love Rosie Probert, Reverend Eli Jenkins, the sexy, licentious Polly Garter, Butcher Beynon, among others Yet, the bits and pieces of the happenings and relationships of sixteen characters do not only grab us through their dramatic actions but also through Thomas' lyrical and verbal narration and the magic and sound of his words. And all of these female and male characters of all ages are depicted by Megan Cole as The Voice serving as narrator, a device essential to any storytelling piece.

First enacted by Thomas as a solo performance at Harvard in 1953 and later as a stage performance in New York, was thus never put into the play form that Thomas desired. Thomas hoped it would become "a piece, a play, an impression of voices, an entertainment out of the darkness, of the town in which I live, and to write simply, warmly and comically with lots of movement and varieties of moods, so that, at many levels, you come to know the town as an inhabitant of it."

Although Thomas' initial solo performance of this voice piece was said to have been beautifully performed, what Porchlight has succeeded in doing is to transform the work into one that could be staged as a play. As in the productions of Word for Word Company that successfully dramatizes as it interprets literary works in the Bay Area and world wide, Porchlight has brought the piece to life and given it the dramatic injection needed to place it in the category of a stage play. As we watch each scene we are pulled into the happenings of the villagers to sometimes sigh over their losses or laugh at their eccentricities. This difficult challenge that Porchlight has met places the company on a high level of staging achievement. In short, Porchlight has successfully dramatized and physicalized a play not yet perfectly suited for play performance.

Expertly directed by Randall Stuart, Act One is filled with verbal descriptions that, although sometimes delivered too rapidly, are revitalized through the homogeneous acting of the entire cast and the rhythm and variety of stage movement on a simple wooden stage with small levels and few props or furniture that allow the actors to move up

and down and across the stage with ease. Act Two, that introduces songs and is less verbally inclined, provides a strong and entertaining conclusion. Original Music and musical direction is provided by Kathy Stephan.

Staging Under Milk Wood under the large Redwood trees of the Redwood Amphitheatre in the Marin Art and Garden Center is a tour de force for Porchlight. It brings a moving tableau of life in a small town offering a humanly lyrical and universal dramatization of time that passes and the events that reflect the desires and hopes of its quaint inhabitants.

Under Milkwood plays until July 12. For info about Porchlight prooductins call 415.251.1027 or visit [www.porchlight.net](http://www.porchlight.net)

*Annette Lust, Member Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle.*

**SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN PARMA**

American Conservatory Theatre's season finale, "Tis Pity She's a Whore," offers audiences a fresh encounter with a startling, rarely performed play written in the 1630's by John Ford. "Tis Pity" is a play about overwhelming passion, the kind of passion that refuses to be quenched no matter how vigorously it is attacked, a passion between a brother, Giovanni (Michael Hayden) and his sister, Annabella (Rene Augesen). This is a morality play complete with incest, revenge and family honor.

Director Carey Perloff and her wonderful cast play this pre-Restoration melodrama for all it is worth in Candice Donnelly's lavishly costumed production. Inventively staged by Carey Perloff in a deconstructed Baroque cathedral by Walt Spangler, the play is set in Parma, Italy. With clear and gripping poetry, Ford paints a decadent landscape of greed and corruption, helmed by a vicious amoral clergy. "There is a lot of ambivalence in the play about what is 'normal' in a toxic society," says Perloff, "and it's paradoxical because while we know the lovers are siblings, their love seems almost pure next to the corruption around them."

The twists and turns painstakingly taken during the first act come unstrung in the second leading to enormous amounts of bloodshed and revenge and ends up painting everyone with the same bloody brush so nobody ends up looking very good.

This is a show where those cast in smaller roles have scenes allowing them to excel. James Carpenter as the supposed doctor, Robert Sicular as the father of Giovanni and Annabella, Susan Gibney as Hippolita, Sharon Lockwood as Putana, Anthony Fusco as Vasques and Jack Willis as a Cardinal are outstanding in their roles.

Adding an edgy, rapturous element to the play's murky world is cellist and vocalist, Bonfire Madigan Shive, who provides the exhilarating live one-woman score. "I consider my work in this production to be a 'living score'" says Shive. "I'm shaping the sounds based on each character's emotional interior, so in a sense, the music will serve as the heartbeat of the play."

"Tis Pity She's a Whore" plays at A.C.T. at 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 7 p.m. Sundays through July 6. For information, call 415-749-2228 or go online at [www.tickets@act-sf.org](http://www.tickets@act-sf.org).

Coming up in the fall at A.C.T. will be the West Coast Premiere of "Rock 'n Roll" by Tom Stoppard.

*Flora Lynn Isaacson*

**THE FULL MONTY**

has been playing to sold out houses at The Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond since May 23. This musical is an Americanized version adapted from the 1997 British film of the same name; Terrance McNally wrote the book, and David Yazbek wrote the score. The show is directed by John Maio, with music direction by Pat King and choreography by Katie Kimball.

According to Director John Maio, audience members are drawn to this musical for the "perceived provocation story line of six average unemployed blue-collar Buffalo steel workers, low on both cash and prospects, who decide to present a strip act at a local club after seeing their wife's enthusiasm for a touring company of professionals. As they prepare for the show, working through their fears, self-consciousness and anxieties, they overcome their inner demons and find strength in their camaraderie.

Rousing music opened the show with Ben Barron on the guitar, Pat King on piano, Barbara Kohler on drums and percussion, Jo Lusk on the keyboard and flute, Julio Reyes and Vince Lucchesi on the bass and Jim Ware on trumpet.

Director John Maio cleverly stages this show with actors entering from the audience. The highlight of the show was the auditions the steel workers held for male strippers. Wendell H. Wilson stole the show as "Horse" (an Afro-American stripper) and Anna Albanese brought down the house as Jeanette, the piano player for the auditions, rehearsals and the show.

Other notable performances in the cast were Todd Carver as Jerry, who organized the group, Lucas Masch who winningly plays Jerry's young son Nathan, Jerry's unsympathetic ex-wife Pam, played by Steph Peek, Tucker Matthews as Dave, a chubby unemployed steel worker who has a flair for comedy and Dave's wife Georgie, the organizer of the women who go to the strip club is energetically played by Sara Breindel. Kyle Johnson as Malcolm and Greg Millolland as Ethan give sensitive performances as two lost souls who find each other. Chaz Simonds and Lise Lindsley also did nice work together as Harold and Vicki Nichols.

The scenic design by Rob Bradshaw was great and the lighting design by Debbi Sandmann was effective. Tammy Berlin's costumes were sensational.

My only criticism was the show seemed too long (3 hours) and could be cut and tightened in its pacing. This show contains nudity, adult language and is not recommended for children under 16.

The Full Monty runs thru July 5 at 105 Park Place in Point Richmond For information or reservations, call 510-232-4031 or visit [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org). Next up at the Masquer's will be The Petrified Forest by Robert E. Sherwood August 22-September 27.

*Flora Lynn Isaacson*

Jaques Brell is Alive and Well and Living in Paris — "Bravo" to the Marin Theatre Company. Very fine work.

Coming up next at MTC will be "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" by Terrance McNally For ticket information, call 415-388-5208 or go online at [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org)

*For more complete theatre coverage, go to [www.tpobserver.com](http://www.tpobserver.com)*

**Earthquake (Cont from p. 12)**

Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits, and alongside exterior walls. Many fatalities occur when people run outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

**If in a moving vehicle**

Pull over to the side of the road and stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. (Guide Note: an earthquake while you're driving feels like there's something wrong with your car. Don't stop in the middle of the freeway if traffic is still moving around you. Slow down and put on your turn signal to get to the side of the road. If everyone else is doing the same thing, it was most likely an earthquake.)

Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

**If trapped under debris**

Do not light a match.  
Do not move about or kick up dust.  
Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.

Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

**Things to pack that can help you survive an earthquake:**

A crank radio or battery operated radio, including MP3 players with radio. They don't take up much room and if the power goes out, you will be able to get current information.

A small flashlight in case the power goes out.

Travel snacks like granola bars, beef jerky and trail mix in case you're stuck in one place for a while.

Water. You can't pack it if you're flying, but keep a couple bottles in your hotel room once you settle in, and in your rental car if you have one.

**Earthquake Emergency Kits** Be Prepared with Red Cross Emergency Kits. [www.RedCrossStore.org](http://www.RedCrossStore.org)

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SECOND THOUGHTS
When Is More of a Good Thing Not Better?

By Jack Kaye



I admit that I am not a great believer in the predictive ability of economics, but I do appreciate some of its descriptive concepts and models. My favorite three are externalities, indifference curves and the law of diminishing marginal returns.

Externalities are the hidden costs and benefits of activities. For example, pesticides kill harmful insects and protect the crops but also pollute the earth, air and water in the process. There is a cost for this activity that is not paid by the user or the producer. Public education, if it is good, has positive externalities like making the population more skilled and productive and less likely to commit crime. The role of good government is to actor in the externalities of each activity and ensure that costs are paid by the responsible parties and benefits are acknowledged when allocating more resources.

Indifferent curves are often tied to pricing or cost. If a seller increases the price of a product, the immediate result will be higher profit per item and therefore more money. But as the price increases, there comes a point when fewer items are sold for the higher price and so while the profit per item increases, the volume decreases until no one wants one at a very high price,

so they are indifferent as to whether they have it or not.

Finally, I like the law of diminishing marginal returns which is designed to predict or at least describe the point at which something precious loses its luster because too much is available. I tested this theory with filet mignon. Surely, there can never be too much filet mignon. But after my eighth meal of it in a three-week period, I could no longer bear the thought of it. We now see this happening with gasoline usage. When the price gets to a certain point, say \$4.50 a gallon, people will seek alternatives such as public transportation or carpooling or getting rid of the pickup or SUV.

I think all this can be applied to the notion that more is better, the more the merrier. Like the idea that you can never be too thin or too rich or never have enough friends or should never turn off your cell phone.

When you see even a few anorexic models and actresses, it is hard to come away thinking one can never be too thin. When you read about the excesses of athletes, actors, and businessmen, it makes you wonder if this wealth could not be put to better uses like reducing poverty, improving education or cleaning our environment and whether the excessively rich are really better for the experience. When you talk to a friend who must squeeze you in between two other friends who are also vying for attention, you realize with so many friends there is never enough time for

any of them. And when I see people constantly on their cell phones literally hooked the way smokers used to be, I wonder if there is not something like too much cell phoning. Do people really have to talk on their cells while driving their cars, eating their lunches at a restaurant, purchasing something at a store, walking across a busy intersection or nursing their baby? Have cell phones become our new Sirens drawing us in against our free will? Or are they like communications from the Almighty that should never be ignored?

It seems like the answer our former president gave for his many infidelities in the White House - "Because I could" - could apply to our many daily excesses. We do them because we can afford to. But I wonder when do we realize that enough is enough and that more than that is not necessarily better but could be worse?

When do we recognize the externalities in our excessive behavior and develop an indifference to these gluttonous activities be they eating or drinking too much, to listening to talk radio too much, to buying too much, owning too much, controlling too much and therefore worrying too much?

How long will it take us to see the diminishing marginal returns of increased activities?

When do we say "enough really is enough?"

END JOKES

Michelangelo's David in America



Michelangelo's famous statue, David, returns to Italy this week after a successful 12 week, 20 city US tour.

A couple go into a restaurant for dinner. The waiter approaches the table, "Sir, what would you like for dinner?" "I'll have the sirloin steak, please." Waiter, "But what about the mad cow?" the man responds, "Oh, she can order for herself."

Two mothers are talking about their sons. The first said "Well, my Francis is a saint himself. Not only has he not looked at a woman in over three years, but he hasn't touched a drop of liquor in all that time."

"My word," the first mother said. "You must be so proud."

"I am, the second mother replied. "And when he's paroled next month, I'm going to throw him a big party."

Parting Thought

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning, and does not stop until you get into the office." - Robert Frost

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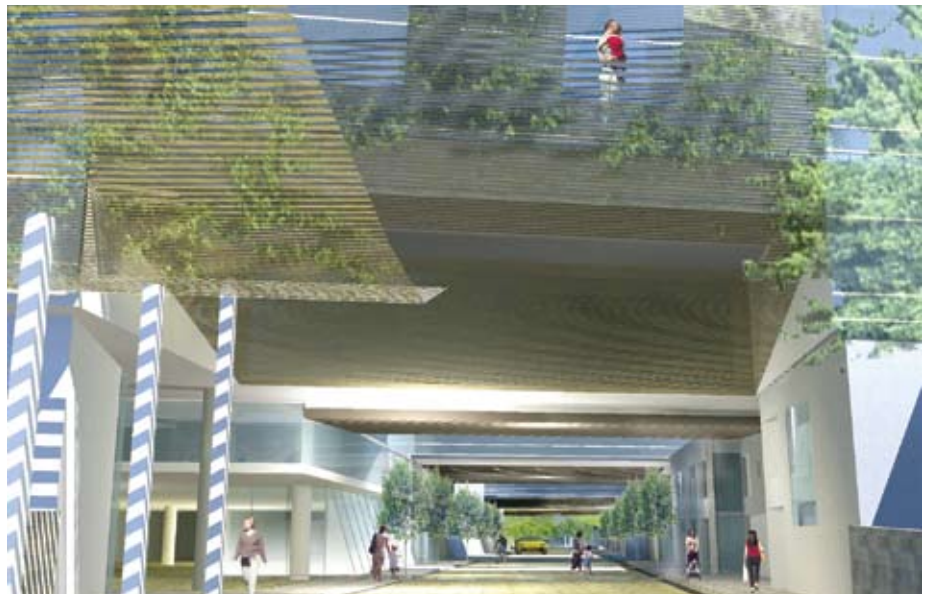
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In February, Republic Urban Properties unveiled its updated project design for the Pacific Park project, located at Wawona and 19th Avenue.

Through a collaborative process with the community, we believe this new design blends beautifully with the unique character of the West Portal neighborhood. Our new design elements include:

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- ❖ Extensive landscaping and roof gardens atop each building to further screen the development from nearby neighbors
- ❖ One entry/exit to the development at 19th Avenue
- ❖ Sustainable, LEED certified development

Please visit our updated website [www.ardenwoodsf.com](http://www.ardenwoodsf.com) for additional information, or contact us at [ardenwood@republic-urban.com](mailto:ardenwood@republic-urban.com).



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