

Then and Now

Life In The Fat Lane

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER CITIZEN SUPERVISOR
by Quentin Kopp



In January, one of our daily newspapers which occasionally, like a blind pig finding an acorn, identifies taxpayer waste and abuse, reported that the Board of Supervisors engaged in fewer meetings while receiving vastly higher compensation than ever before the relatively recent imposition of election by district. Specifically, in 2002, Charter section 2.100, establishing the compensation and salary of the 11 Board of Supervisors members, was rendered obsolete by a Charter amendment that essentially delegated to the Civil Service Commission the power to set Board of Supervisors compensation based upon supervisorial salaries in other counties, larger and smaller in population. I am bemused and also reminded of the history of supervisorial compensation, a history which even under the constraints of the Code of Judicial Conduct, I believe I am permitted to recite.

For the unenlightened or newly born, I was a Board of Supervisors member for nearly 15 years. At the time of my election in 1971, the annual compensation was \$9,600. Board of Supervisors members were not allowed membership in the San Francisco Retirement System, and no term limits existed for service on the Board. The 1932 reform Charter had provided annual compensation of \$2,400 per year and in essence mandated voter approval of any change. Not until 1956, did voters increase the salary to \$4,800. That was then increased by voter approval in 1964 to \$9,600 per year.

Several attempts to alter and eliminate requisite voter approval of compensation increase were thereafter in the early 1980's thwarted by voters. One such effort attempted to make the salary of the then (and present) part-time supervisors the same as a Superior Court judge. Other gimmicks were assayed, but voter perception acutely rendered them unsuccessful. I opposed them all as subterfuges.

In 1982, having become president of the Board of Supervisors by virtue of the Charter Initiative Amendment mandating the supervisorial candidate receiving the highest number of votes be selected as president, I proposed an increase in salary from \$9,600 yearly to \$23,924, based solely and simply upon the increase in the Bay Area Consumer Price Index

Cont. p. 4

Arden Wood Neighbors, Developers Closer

NEIGHBOR'S POINT OF VIEW

By Eric Castongia, Zephyr Real Estate

Big Changes presented on the Proposed Arden Wood Development

The developers of the proposed housing project on the Arden Wood property sponsored two workshops in February to present their new vision for the 4.6 acre parcel. In Republic Urban's words, 'you talked, we listened'. Their new scheme was a significant and welcomed departure from the original 13 and six story towers, which were loudly opposed by neighbors.

The new scheme consists of four new low-rise buildings straddling a 'village drive' culminating at a cul-de-sac. Two existing buildings are to stay and be remodeled as part of the development; building 701 which is currently staff housing and the director's house. Robert Mendelsohn, President of Republic Urban Properties San Francisco Branch, states that although a Planned Unit Development will still be needed to build the project, it will be built to existing zoning guidelines, with the height staying within the 40 foot height limit.

As part of the workshops, four stations were set up 1) Architecture, 2) LEED Certification, 3) Landscaping, and 4) EIR/Approvals; for participants to discuss various issues and questions with experts in each area. There was not a follow up portion of the meeting to ask questions as a group. Mr. Mendelsohn stated that he would be happy to present the revised project to the neighborhood for input. Some of the project specifics:

- 60-75% of the existing trees are planned to remain
- Green space will be maintained at the perimeter of the site
- Three walking paths were highlighted for access from the development to the West Portal transit hub, one of which was shown behind the Arden Wood Christian Science Facility.
- The entry and exit to the development will be on 19th Ave. Cal Trans has not yet given approval for the access
- The 18th Ave. and Wawona gate will be used

Cont. p. 4

DEVELOPER'S MESSAGE

By Robert Mendelsohn, Republic Urban Properties



Over the past year, the West Portal community has been providing us with their thoughts and ideas about the project and we have been listening. As a result, we have made significant changes in the design of the proposed development and we believe this project will truly be an asset to the community for generations to come.

First unveiled at our community workshops in February, our new design no longer includes two buildings at 6 and 13 stories each, but now consists of four buildings, which are the same height as The Grove Condominiums (an average height of 40 feet each), and totals 141 units. There will be one entrance and exit for the development from 19th Avenue, which will be private and will not interfere with The Grove's existing fire road. We also have an extensive landscaping plan that coupled with the existing dense tree canopy on the site and lowered building height, will effectively screen the buildings. Additionally, roof top gardens will further mask the development from above.

Addressing your traffic concerns is also a major priority for us. Over the course of the project, we will be working closely with the City, CalTrans, and an independent traffic consultant to help mitigate any traffic and circulation challenges that are identified through the EIR process. Additionally, our onsite parking and

Cont. p. 4

Sean Elsbernd prepares for re-election

By John Dunbar

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd is preparing for re-election in November 2008 by building a substantial campaign warchest. The District 7 supervisor is up for re-election in November. Elsbernd was first appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2004 by Mayor Gavin Newsom in a move widely characterized as a "triple play" in which then Supervisor Tony Hall went to Treasure Island, then Treasure Island Director Ann Marie Conroy went to Emergency Services and then Mayoral liaison to the Board of Supervisors Elsbernd filled the vacancy in District 7.

Elsbernd won the seat in his own right in November 2004. His campaign spent \$226,000 to win 10,475 first place votes and 33% of the vote. Additionally, Elsbernd was aided by independent expenditure campaigns to promote his election. Under the City's ranked choice voting system Elsbernd defeated second place runner up Christine Linnenbach after ten elimination rounds in which second place votes were reallocated. Linnenbach spent \$51,000.

Elsbernd has been Mayor Gavin Newsom's strongest ally on the Board of Supervisors and probably his most potent. Frequent Newsom critic Supervisor Chris Daly has described Elsbernd as the Mayor's "Field Marshall" on a body that is often at odds with the Mayor. Elsbernd has a grasp of the legislative process and a political mind that grasps nuances quickly. While Elsbernd articulates the interests of the Newsom administration he also collaborates with Board President Aaron Peskin --whose feud with

Newsom has been ratcheted up in 2008. For example, Elsbernd provided Peskin the sixth vote to place Proposition A, the transportation charter amendment, on last November's ballot.

For the November 2008 election Elsbernd has raised more campaign money than any other candidate --challenger or incumbent-- for the Board of Supervisors. Campaign finance reports show that by December 31, 2007 Elsbernd raised over \$141,000. A tried and true campaign strategy incumbents employ is to build up a significant campaign warchest and by doing so deter opponents. This Elsbernd has done. The adoption by City voters in 2002 of ranked choice voting is another advantage incumbents enjoy because name recognition is a necessary condition to win, and it's harder for a lesser known challenger to defeat an incumbent without a runoff election. The only caveat to that for an incumbent is if someone with a more famous and well regarded last name chooses to enter a contest.

Of the \$141,000 Elsbernd raised significant portions of it come from institutional players who are active lobbyists, developers, large property owners and those in real estate business. Elsbernd has raised over \$7,000 from lobbyists. These figures include blue chip members of the San Francisco political establishment such as Marcia Smolens and Don Solem. Elsbernd also raised close \$5,000 from employees working for the City's heavily regulated garbage companies, Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal.

Elsbernd raised over \$40,000 from contributors

Cont. p. 9

More
INSIDE

Hank Basayne	2
Laguna Honda George Wooding	2
Letters to the Editor	2
Phyllis' Findings	3
Spraying for Moths	3
Don Lee Miller at the Movies	5
Calendar	6
Doggie Diner	7
Jack Kaye	8
General Hospital Rebuild	9
Carol Kocivar on Education	9
Park Merced Update	10
Theatre with Annette Lust	10
Police Blotter	11
Notes of an Alte Kocker Lothari	11
End Jokes	12

THE CHAMBERS SETTLEMENT: BETRAYAL OF THE LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL RESIDENTS AND SAN FRANCISCO’S VOTERS



As reported in last month’s Observer, San Francisco and its Department of Public Health (DPH) are rushing through approval of an obscure lawsuit — the Chambers settlement agreement — that will drastically change public health policies at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH). The Chambers settlement not only goes against the will of San Francisco voters, it also creates huge, open-ended housing and public service entitlements.

If adopted as currently written, the Chambers settlement will drain the City’s remaining General Fund, stripping City Supervisors of legislative authority over the discretionary portion of the General Fund.

The City’s Mayor, Supervisors, and DPH aren’t doing their jobs. By choosing litigation over intelligent, well-researched legislation, City government is being restricted to rebuilding only 780 beds at LHH; LHH’s mission will be changed to feature short-term, 90-day stay rehabilitative treatment, rather than long-term care.

The City has no idea what acceptance of the Chambers settlement will actually cost, since no cost analysis of the entitlement programs has been performed. There’s no guarantee LHH residents will receive adequate medical care if the Chambers settlement results in placing LHH residents into alternative community placements. While community-based services are claimed to save City funds, as entitlement costs caring for and placing patients into the community soars, fewer discretionary General Funds will be available for transportation, education, parks, libraries, pothole repair, etc.

The City is currently rapidly reducing LHH’s census from 1,040 to 780 residents over the next 12 months. The City doesn’t have housing for many of them, and is discharging some to out-of-county placements. Due to budget deficits, the Mayor is already cutting services to vulnerable LHH residents being forced into untenable community placements. The Mayor is eliminating community-based public health nurses, cutting funds to single room occupancy (SRO) hotels, cutting Heath-at-Home program services, and is reducing “community program services” by 15 percent. Rapid displacement of LHH residents without community services being in place will force LHH residents into making choices between leaving their City, living in dangerous Tenderloin SRO rooms, or simply becoming homeless.

Even LHH’s largest union —Service Employees International Union — is alarmed San Francisco’s most vulnerable residents won’t obtain true choice if the Chambers agreement is adopted, violating the U.S. Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision that residents must be integrated into their home communities, not displaced out-of-county. The Chambers settlement is a class action lawsuit which applies to all current LHH residents. The lawsuit does not have an opt-out clause for LHH residents that do not want to participate.

In the City of St. Francis, this stinks. Before March 11, urge District Supervisors to reject or modify the Chambers settlement agreement before final adoption.

George Wooding/ West of Twin Peaks Central Council

ON THE PLUS SIDE
We’ll Never Be Best Friends

by Hank Basayne

Maybe we’ll never be friends at all. We are acquainted and over the past years we seem to run into each other more and more frequently. Well, not actually run into each other—we are more like passers-by—each hurrying on to some other place. But by now we nod in acknowledgement of each other as we pass. As time slips by I’m sure we’ll get to know each other better.

Of course I’m talking about that guy with the black hood and the scythe, the Grim Reaper. He usually is depicted as male—except in the film All That Jazz where Death is a beautiful, knowledgeable, seductive woman. (What an agreeable, attractive concept for a passionate man!)

I first became aware of that troubling, dark presence when I was about four. An ancient great aunt died causing great consternation and disruption in our up-until-then orderly home. Weeping, whispered conversations, my father shaving (in the middle of the day!) and putting on a black tie, with other very unusual activity as the grown-ups prepared to attend the funeral. I was just learning to spell about then and thought I detected the word “fun” in “funeral”. Ah, childhood innocence!

Cats, pet turtles, insects, other distant relatives also died in those distant years, but caused me only momentary disturbance until my early teens. Then death and dying began to be consciously real, distressing and preoccupying with the death of my beloved grandfather. Ever since I’ve viscerally felt the meaning of words like “transient”, “temporary”, “brief” and “momentary”.

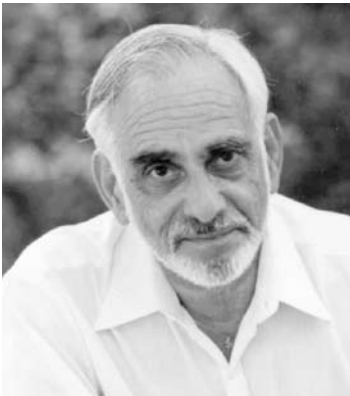
There’s no evading that inevitable last encounter. The Sufis tell a story about a servant in Baghdad who frantically tells his master, a merchant, that he saw Death in the marketplace. He’s terrified that Death is after him. To hide him from Death his master sends him on an errand to Samarra, a town about 75 miles away, Meanwhile the merchant goes to the Baghdad

marketplace. He sees Death there and demands to know why Death is threatening and terrifying his servant. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” Death replies. “I have no business here. I have an appointment tonight in Samarra!”

I really began to acutely feel the close presence of The Big D (no, not Dallas) in my mid-fifties, coming-to in an ICU one Mother’s Day after the first of several heart attacks. We brushed shoulders again two years later, which resulted in surgery on my opened heart. That’s when there then was added meaning for me in Saroyan’s musing, “I used to think I’d live forever, but now I’m not so sure”. It’s also when I took my first stumbling steps toward re-ordering my priorities. Our near-miss encounters have continued with increasing frequency as I move through the years.

Big D has handmaidens, or handmen, assistants whose task is to remind me of Death’s inexorable approach whenever I get too bound-up in delight or worry or the other trivia of daily life. Those reminders take many different forms: a bad dream, a surprising new ache or pain, a sad movie or touching piece of music, the failure of a finger or a knee to act in its accustomed way, a gray day or an autumn mist, the illness, accident or death of someone close. They are like the sharp rap on the head of a meditating monk by a Zen master to keep the acolyte’s mind from drifting. They are there, like the skull on the desk of a medieval alchemist, as a Memento Mori. They take me back to “Remember, you will die”, so that I can embrace living with renewed purpose and vigor.

Now well into my twilight years, I have survived the loss of parents, much-loved siblings, dear friends, spouses, favorite dogs. I know that the old leaves must turn color, dry, and drop from the tree to make way for the new young leaves of Spring. But Big D hovers, present nearby every day. I feel the occasional tap on my shoulder, but so far, I have been able to say “No, not today”. I have fruit to eat, a movie to see, a book to read, a cat to pet, children to hug and other important joys to pursue. I know that some day Death and I will go off together, but we will never be best friends.



Letters to the Editor

WEE WEE ON WEST PORTAL

Thank you and Mr Waight for bringing up the problem that West Portal gets short visits when people have no place to go.

About 5 years ago I wrote a similar request to the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association, followed up by a more recent reminder. I got not even an acknowledgement on both occasions.

The problem, of course, is that the minute you put in a public restroom, our honored homeless (Hank Basayne’s and my generation used to call them bums) will trash them as soon as the door opens. Also, it requires someone with plumbing skills to keep it clean and well-maintained and to clean off the graffiti that our well-educated students of nearby schools will artistically decorate the walls.

As for funding, fear not, we have a Mayor with endless funding available for whatever he wishes. He might want to visit West Portal some day when he and Mr. Sandoval want to come inspect our concreted lawns.

Anyway - the necessity for a decent public restroom in West Portal is still there. Whatever the Observer can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

kup385612@sbcglobal.net

LAGUNA HONDA’S CHAMBERS DEBACLE

If the City refuses to address a central issue that the Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) rebuild bears little resemblance to the 1999 bond measure (A) approved by 73% of San Francisco voters, it must at least recognize that the loss of long-term care beds at LHH will very quickly cause the current critical shortage of such beds to turn into one of disastrous proportions.

It is most distressing that the proposed Chambers’ settlement not only seeks bed limitations but also severely narrows the types of care offered at LHH. Page 24, paragraphs X-A and X-B state in part “San Francisco ...agrees the total bed capacity of the rebuilt LHH will not exceed 780 skilled nursing beds.” And, “the Mission of the rebuilt LHH shall include a goal that the facility is for short term rehabilitation treatment.”

Following the closure of 34 skills nursing beds at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, the Health Commission – in November 2007 – itself agreed that the demand exceeds supply, especially in the area of long term-care skilled nursing beds. If demand exceeds supply, what are the solutions?

I must admit that I take no solace in the Health Commission’s statements that the Chambers settlement document “doesn’t really mean what it says”. In fact, LHH is already making plans to reduce the number of beds to 780 permanently.

Clearly, those who have an opportunity to “age in place” should be allowed to do so, but we cannot place our heads in the sand and assume that the need for long-term skilled nursing beds will simply evaporate. Allow me to share with you a very personal situation that points out just such a need: I was my mother’s primary caregiver as she slowly succumbed to the ravages of Alzheimer’s disease. In fact, I probably kept her at my home for a period longer than was safe for her. After 8 years of living with me, I could no longer deny the fact that she was very impaired. She was already falling (and in danger of breaking bones) when I tried to give her a shower and she could no longer safely navigate the stairs of our house. With her mobility impaired, she would have been a prisoner in the house had I not placed her in a nursing home where she could receive the nursing care she needed. You are mistaken if you think this was an easy decision; it was most difficult, but in the end, the only humane choice. If I had to place her in a county outside San Francisco, she would have been denied my frequent visits and her well-being and quality of life would have declined further. Yet, this is exactly what is happening to many of our disabled/elderly San Franciscans with dementia, and will only get worse as the bed shortage escalates.

I believe it would be unconscionable to approve this settlement. Six plaintiffs at Laguna Honda cannot be allowed to make life and death decisions for thousands of others. This is not the way to enact public policy. Use your minds please as well as your hearts as you consider this issue.

Sherrie Matza, the City

Send Letters to the Editor to tpobserver@aol.com

PHYLLIS' FINDINGS

In 1957 actress Joan Crawford said “I think the most important thing a woman can have - next to talent, of course—is her hairdresser.” She was right...even over fifty years later. I found this out a few weeks ago when I decided what I needed was some highlights in my hair. I decided to visit DePietro Todd’s School of Hairdressing on Post Street...highly recommended by a friend. Oy vay! There was a bevy of patrons, students, and supervisors. I was sent to a young man who said he’d been there for 8 months...but he seemed confident and I was confident (why, I don’t know) that he knew what he was doing. He said at the moment they were doing cuts...” is that okay?” I figured a trim would be fine as my hair was a bit longish at the moment...assuming that it would be followed by a beautiful frosting. He began cutting around and about and above the forehead and in back of the ears and below the nape while I watched in trepidation...what was he doing? It took an hour and a half of what seemed like “cut and paste” to make me look like a chrysanthemum. A mohel could not have done a worse job. A supervisor came over and only commented that he had forgotten to cut a loose strand. My tresses were no more. He followed the horror with some blown heat from a dryer and was finished. I should have punched him then and there. But I didn’t. I was sufficiently distraught to go through a red light on the way home which is another story entirely for another time.



Fortunately, I have an assortment of caps, berets, scarfs to hide the hideous result. It’s now a month later and Michael, at Alexander Collections on West Portal, who sells vintage clothing decided to dress me up in some of his wigs and hats....you can see the results. Menander, a Greek playwright in 291 B.C. remarked “a chaste woman ought not to die her hair yellow.”

I was invited to tour the construction of Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center recently and was reasonably impressed with all that’s going on there. After donning heavy boots, a hard hat, an orange vest and sloshing through the mud I observed scores of busy hard hatted workers installing lots of windows. The installation of the interior wall framing continues in the Link and South Residence Buildings and the mechanical, electric and plumbing installation is also under way. It’s beginning to look like a hospital despite the various delays. Furniture, fixtures and equipment consultants’ contract has been approved and together with the replacement team, they will purchase the new equipment necessary. They are hoping to open the doors to the new building in late 2009. If you wish to learn more about the Hospital and Replacement Program, there will be COMMUNITY MEETINGS at the Laguna Honda Hospital Main Library on Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.(Construction tour starts at 5:45 p.m.) Again on Wednesday Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m. (Construction tour starts at 5:45 p.m.) and then on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. To schedule a construction site tour, call Arla Escontrias, Director of Community Affairs (415) 759-4597.

One of the most amusing shows you’ll see for a while is the hilarious WISHFUL DRINKING with the sparkling, solo performance of Carrie Fisher(who was assisted by director Tony Taccone in reworking the premiere version of the show done in LA 2 years ago). Carrie is the..daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher and both parents were at the opening night performance...along with George Lucas(Star Wars) who came with his daughter. Carrie has had small roles in some good films(e.g. Hannah and Her Sisters) but we don’t hear much about her. Her writing is very funny. She’s nimble with language and

has a vivid imagination and also totally delivers on the juicy details of what rich and famous people are really like. Her first novel was POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE, which won her a L.A. Pen Award for Best Novel in 1987. (The film version starred Meryl Streep) She tells you about her bipolar disorder, what it’s like to have Elizabeth Taylor briefly as a step-mother, how after her Dad’s 4th marriage to an Asian lady he continued his series of face-lifts til he finally looked Asian himself. You’ll hear about Mike and Liza Todd, Karl Marx, Richard Burton, Richard Wilding and an assortment of other overdosed celebrities involved in Carrie’s life. I saw Eddie Fisher after the show in a wheelchair. He seems quite frail but quite affable and talkative. He said he was 79, had 4 marriages, and I asked if he wanted to make it five. He smiled and said he lives in Nob Hill. (Was that a hint to contact him?)

There are some terrific films out there at the moment. THERE WILL BE BLOOD and NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN, as well as JUNO are all worth seeing...as is THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY. My most recent viewing was THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL which was surprisingly enjoyable. It tells the salacious story of two hot blue bloods who ran amok and partly unclothed in the court of Henry VIII. Best known for losing her head to the king, first metaphorically, then literally, Anne Boleyn (Natalie Portman, saucy), along with her sister, Mary (Scarlett Johansson, sedate) entered the court of the king (Eric Bana, brooding and glowering) when he was still wed to Catherine of Aragon (Ana Torrent-a talented Spanish actress.) A man of considerable and changeable appetites, the king yearned for a male heir and anything in a frock who wasn’t the queen. His sexual wish was their command. Bodice-ripping entertainment ensues...also galloping horses, rolling heads, bustling gowns and rampaging royals. There’s lots of frenetic action, wordless gestures and poses, but ultimately, it’s a fun ride!

Antol Fugard’s BLOOD KNOT is currently showing at ACT...where the two man show is performing to standing ovations. Directed by Charles Randolph-Wright with original music composed and recorded by Tracy Chapman, you can catch it before March 9th. Call 749-2ACT.

Over at Theater 39, at Pier 39, is INSIGNIFICANT OTHERS...an “Only in San Francisco Musical” that is playing with an extended Open Run. It concerns a group of young people who move to San Francisco and the fun and foibles that ensue.Read more about it in Annette Lust’s theater column.

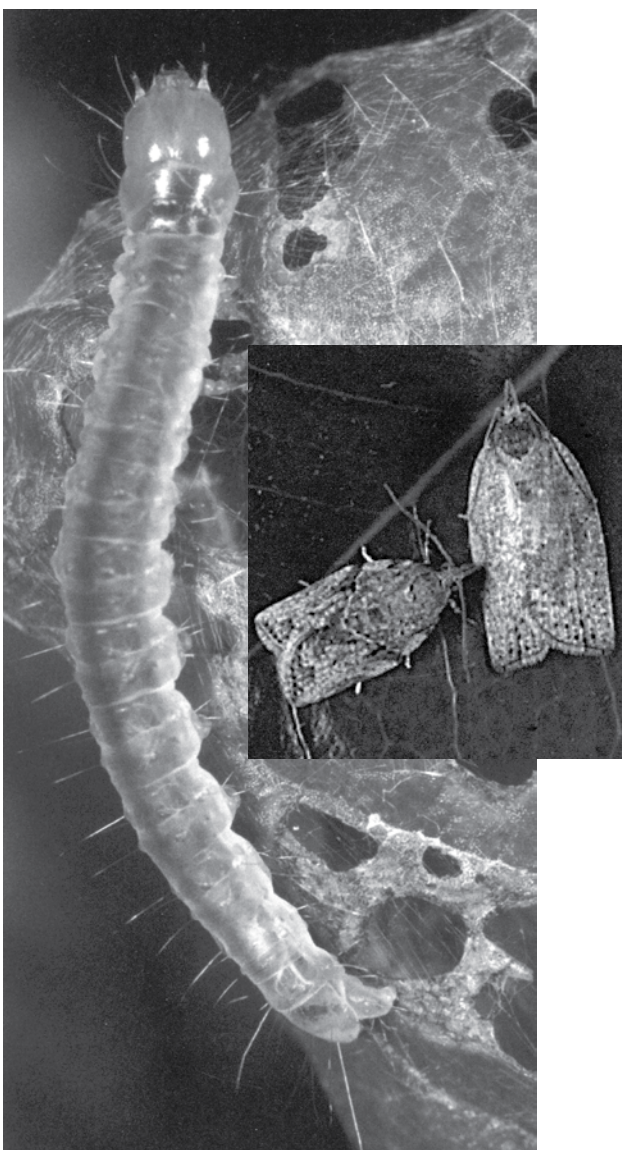
For tickets call 415-433-3939....an ideal show for you and your out-of-town visitors. Ken Valencia, manager of the FOG HARBOR FISH HOUSE at Pier 39 hosted a delectable outstanding buffet for the opening night visitors.

A few months ago, SF Chronicle’s Michael Bauer reviewed a restaurant at 1708 Church St...PE-SCHERIA...The owners subsequently had it reprinted in the Chronicle’s magazine section. Sounded great so we decide to try it. The bread served at the start came with a dish of olive oil that tasted exceptionally strange. Different restaurants add various spices but this was like nothing I’d ever tried before. We returned it and asked for butter. The subsequent entrees of fish were OK, but they were the size of a deck of cards with no accompaniments....and were \$25 and \$27 each...somewhat excessive we thought for such skimpy seafood. Michael Bauer called it possibly the best casual seafood haunt in the Bay Area. Maybe they knew he was coming!

Thinking about the election? I don’t think I’ve missed any of the debates and while I’d probably be happy with either of the Democratic nominees, I’m leaning towards Obama. He’s bright, articulate, knowledgeable, charismatic and hopefully the primary winner should be determined in a week or so. If not, there’s trouble in River City! I anticipate John Edwards will endorse him sooner or later, as it is said he hopes to become Attorney General (or so the scuttlebut goes). The big problem will be defeating McCain. I thought it would be easy, finally eliminating the Republican party in power, but apparently there are more headaches than meets the eye.

McCain is a war hero and the macho Republicans are overlooking his nasty temper and the fact that he punches people when he doesn’t like them. I think his age is also against him. It will be interesting to see what happens in the months to come.

READERS...a short suggestion: Very soon you’ll be getting “free” money from the government. They’re hoping you’ll spend it like crazy to help avert further recession, problems..fool them....pay down your credit card debt and save the rest. Good advice from Susie Orman.



Before it matures into an adult moth , the Light Brown Apple Moth’s caterpillar stage feeds on leaves and new plant growth. It can also directly damage several kinds of fruits and vegetables.

“Not in San Francisco” Say Local Activists

The California Department of Food and Agriculture began the process of “scoping” for questions the public wishes to have addressed in the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) on its plans to spray about 700 square miles of northern California in an attempt to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

Officials say the apple moth, discovered in Berkeley last year, is an Australian native species that threatens to destroy millions of dollars worth of crops, flowers and trees.

On February 25th the Department held a public impact report “scoping” meeting at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Almost 200 irate residents, some wearing gas masks and particle filters, seemed unanimously opposed to the plan to spray Checkmate, a pheromone designed to interrupt the mating cycle of the moth in San Francisco from small planes beginning August 1st. It is made by Suterra of North Bend, Oregon. State officials say that the spraying is safe. Most residents who took the time to come to the meeting expressed grave doubts. The concerns varied about the spraying program. Worries about the effect on seniors and children, especially those with respiratory problems, as well as the effect on pets. Many questioned what else is contained in the spray besides synthetic pheromones. Some simply don’t trust any government spraying program, and eschewed assurances from Food and Agriculture experts.

Spraying for the moth began in September and will resume in June in the Monterey-Santa Cruz area, after which there were more than 600 complaints that included skin rashes, nausea, diarrhea and more.

The department has the legal power to declare an emergency without public input and many who attended the meeting characterized the plan as a “done deal”. The CDFA’s received \$75 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the program, and according to CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura, “the federal government is saying that California must eradicate or they will.”

The CFDA has paid a New York public relations firm \$500,000 to sell the public on the program. State Sen. Carole Migden is introducing a bill for a moratorium on aerial spraying that would be limited to the counties of San Francisco and Marin.

More info: www.CASSonline.org 831 421-9305

Italian American Social Club

25 RUSSIA AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO
Since 1937

Lunch & Dinner
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

•
**Buy one Special of the Day
and receive a discount of
\$10 on a second special.**

Coupon good 3/1/08 to 3/31/08

**May not be used with other offers. No duplicates, please.*

•
415-585-8059

Parking lot across from club
Manager: Rich Guaraldi, a YMI member

Sales • Service • Parts

Phil's Electric Vacuum Cleaner

SAN FRANCISCO'S OLDEST Family Owned Since 1941



Specializing in

Miele

Anything else is a compromise

Also: Eureka • Royal
Hoover Oreck • SEBO
• Electrolux •
Panasonic • Kenmore
• Dirt Devil •

Lamp Rewireing and Repairs

Electric Shaver Sales & Service

Allergy Control Products

415 921-3776

2701 Lombard St. @ Baker

Open Mon-Sat 9:00-5:30 • www.philselectric.com
1 Block from Presidio Gate • Convenient Parking

Commonwealth Club of California

The Nation's Premier Public Affairs Forum



Would you like to be better informed on pressing issues of the day? Would you like to hear from experts as they discuss the details of issues that are making the news of the day? If so, perhaps you should consider membership in the Commonwealth Club of California.

For more information and a calendar of upcoming events just call 415 597-6700

Neighbors Cont. from p. 1

only for emergency vehicles

- The revised scheme plans for 141 units-down from 162
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification-a rating system by the U.S. Green Building Council to promote environmentally sensitive construction (renewable resources), sustainable site development (such as collecting rain water for landscape irrigation) and energy efficient construction. Republic Urban is shooting for a 'Gold' Certification
- The developer plans on filing plans for their environmental evaluation application (pre-Environmental Impact Report) within the next month
- The developer may opt to pay a fee in lieu of providing for the city's inclusionary (or workforce) housing requirement

The neighbors I spoke to about the revised design were optimistic, although they were not yet ready to give their full support, having some outstanding concerns; here are a few:

- Sufficient on-site parking. The anticipation is that many new residents will have multiple cars and not enough parking. The City would like to discourage people from using their cars, so their requirements are for a maximum of one space per household. Given the number commuters out of the City in this area, and insufficient options for public transit, neighbors see that as overly optimistic.

- How will site traffic go South on 19th Ave. In a previous scheme, the site's entry and exit at the 19th and Wawona traffic light, allowed a left turn from the site to go South and end dangerous U-Turns in front of St. Cecelia's.

To create an acceptable project, the developer, neighbors, Cal Trans and the City of San Francisco will need to remain involved and committed to resolving the issues special to this area. With neighbor involvement, the proposed project has gone far since its inception. Stay informed, involved and vocal.

Eric Castongia, Residential Sales Specialist at Zephyr Real Estate provided the information in this article. Eric@EricSFHomes.com, (415)307-1700.

Kopp Cont. from p. 1

from 1964 to 1982, compiled by the United States Department of Labor. That index increase was certified by our always-reliable budget analyst, Harvey Rose. The charter salary increase was then easily approved by San Francisco voters. It was a system voters manifestly understood, because it made sense and maintained taxpayers decisional power.

All of that changed with the 2002 charter amendment which divested voters of any power or control. In the voter information pamphlet for that 2002 ballot measure, the then-supervisors claimed that historically "...the board was made up of wealthy aristocrats who visited City Hall once a week to check in", a flagrant campaign distortion and untruth. In the era of the 1970's and the 1980's, every supervisor worked for a living except Dianne Feinstein whose then-husband was a doctor, certainly not a "wealthy aristocrat." Supervisors were not members of the Retirement System. Notwithstanding the salary, supervisors met 52 Mondays a year, served on three committees each and were present in their offices actually answering the telephone at least half of every working day, all without impersonal "voicemail." Some tenacious supervisors took the time to read calendar item files even on a Saturday or Sunday to prepare for the weekly Monday board meeting. There were "no vacation" or "holiday" meeting cancellations. If Monday was a legal holiday, the board would meet on Tuesday. It was called civic duty and public service.

Then, as now, the board of supervisors, as the legislative branch of government, possessed no administrative authority. All such authority under the Charter reposed in the Mayor, designated as the chief



Robert Mendelsohn and Mike Van Every at Arden Wood Workshop

Developers Cont. from p. 1

circulation plans will further address concerns about guest and/or resident traffic and parking on nearby neighborhood streets.

Just as with our initial proposed design, our updated project is always evolving to address the concerns of the community. We plan to continue to meet with the community throughout the planning and approval stages of the Arden Wood development. The EIR process also provides the community the opportunity to address the scope of the report, followed by a public comment and review period before a final EIR is issued.

We are pleased that so many neighbors were able to attend our workshops and we are reviewing and addressing all the comments given in response to the new design in the coming weeks. If any neighbor was unable to attend, or if you have additional comments, we still welcome your feedback. Please visit www.ardenwoodsf.com for additional information as well as to contact us about the proposed project.

Robert Mendelsohn is a retired San Francisco Supervisor, and currently heads Republic-Urban West.

ardenwood@republic-urban.com or

www.ardenwoodsf.com

Editor's note: as of press time, the ardenwoodsf site has not been updated to reflect the new designs.

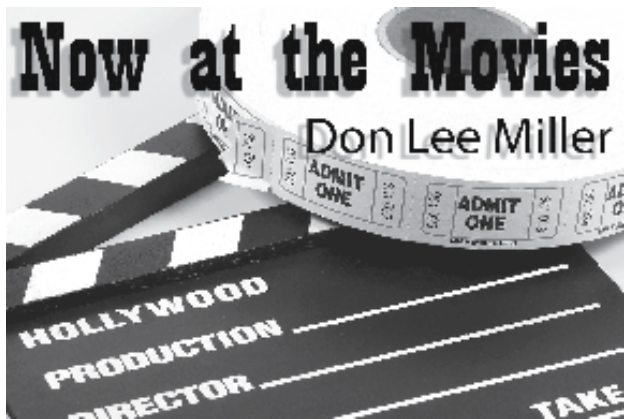
executive officer of the City and County, whose compensation was understandably fixed in accordance with the Salary Standardization Ordinance and who was required to devote his entire time and attention to the duties of office and not to any other occupation or business activity. No similar provision existed then (or now) for supervisors, who are understandably not obligated to devote their entire time and attention to the duties of office, because a mayor is obligated to do that. Unlike the 57 other counties in California, San Francisco, as a city and county, elects a chief executive officer. In the other 57 counties, no elected chief executive officer exists and supervisors serve not only legislative functions, but also act as administrators.

Prior to 2002, voters had also in the 1990's enacted a Charter provision limiting supervisory service to two four-year terms. Thereafter, in a peculiar twist, voters approved a charter amendment allowing Board of Supervisors members eligibility in the generous San Francisco Retirement System, notwithstanding the maximum eight-year permitted service.

While many of the supervisors from the pre-1982 era are no longer alive, those citizens familiar with the foregoing history should be forgiven for scratching their collective heads over the present day annual supervisory salary of approximately \$100,000 per year, together with fewer meetings, all resulting from the grant of supervisory compensation authority to the Civil Service Commission. Some might comment that it has certainly produced a predictably different result.

Superior Court Judge Quentin L. Kopp (Retired) lives in Parkside.

Read the Observer online: www.tpobserver.com



FOOL'S GOLD
Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson are divorcing in the Caribbean after seven years of hunting for a ship sunk in 1725 with millions aboard in a queen's dowry. KH is working as chef aboard wealthy Brit Donald Sutherland's yacht when MM finds an identified piece of the treasure. Can they get it before the bad guys, including Ray Winstone (300), do? Can they fall back in love? If you've been waiting breathlessly for a film in which MM has his shirt off at least half the time, your wait is over. The comedy-romantic adventure is directed by Andy Tennant. Warner Bros. 113 min.

IN BRUGES
After the hit of a London priest goes bad and a child is also accidentally killed, the hit men, Ray: Colin Farrell and Ken: Brendan Gleason, are sent to Bruges, Belgium, while things cool off. This comedy travelogue includes the word "fu**ing" about three times in most sentences. Overlooking that, it is a brilliantly written film, directed by Martin McDonagh with a keen eye. Quite violent, there are fascinating chase sequences involving their boss, Harry: Ralph Fiennes. Ray even gets an unusual love interest, Chloe: Clemence Poesy. Look for a major increase in tourism to Bruges. If you only have time for one film this month, this is the one! Focus 105 min.

JUMPER
Hayden Christensen has a good life: a luxury apartment in Manhattan, free instant travel around the world, all the money he can purloin from banks as needed. Suddenly, white-haired Samuel L. Jackson, a Paladin who terminates Jumpers, seeks him out. In his opening scene, SLJ guts a trussed jumper. Young Jaime Bell (Billy Elliot), another jumper, thinks HC will draw too much attention to Jumpers and incur the wrath of SLJ. HC still has a soft spot for his high school girl friend, Rachel Bilson, and flies her to Paris and Rome. Evil

SLJ isn't far behind. This is a better travelogue than fantasy film. The encounters are lots of action, but is that enough? Director Doug Liman also helmed The Bourne Identity and Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Fox/Regency 2 88min.

RAMBO
In his fourth outing as John Rambo, Sylvester Stallone could almost walk through the movie in his sleep—and does. High action, I would be surprised if there are a total of five pages of dialog. SS is talked into taking some missionaries up river in Burma into perilous enemy-held territory. Every explosion features flying limbs and gruesome, moaning dying 'soldiers'. If one gunshot would do, 40-50 are expended. Focus 93 min.

VANTAGE POINT
Dennis Quaid and Matthew Fox are among those protecting U.S. President William Hurt at a summit meeting held in Salamanca, Spain. An attempt is made on his life—or is it his body double? Civilian tourist Forest Whitaker films what is happening in the square and the Feds want to see that footage. Sigourney Weaver plays the TV director of the event. The same tale is retold eight times from different points-of-view: the fast-paced editing reveals a few more surprises with each retelling. Columbia/Original Film 90 min.






SAN FRANCISCO
FLOWER & GARDEN
SHOW

25 spectacular gardens blossom with ideas
and inspiration!

MAR 12-16, 2008
C O W P A L A C E
gardenshow.com

Live Beautifully. Live Outdoors.

World Famous
Original
"Irish Coffee"



the
BUENA VISTA

2765 Hyde Street (at Beach)
San Francisco 415 474 5044
thebuenavista.com sfbuenavista@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.tpobserver.com

Your Neighborhood Treasure



Bakery
Cafe & Catering
Gourmet Delicatessen


Our Original Location
at 637 Portola Drive • 415-753-0750
Monday – Saturday 6:30am to 7pm, Sunday 7am to 6pm

Visit the new Creighton's Bakery
at 5214-D Diamond Heights Blvd • 415-282-2366
(in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center)
Monday – Saturday 6am to 7pm, Sunday 7am to 6pm

Present this ad for 10% off your purchase
2–7 p.m. Monday through Thursday



"If you're talkin' West Portal
You gotta talk to Stephen!"



- Living and working in our neighborhood
- Experienced & knowledgeable professionalism
- Local support with a global presence to get you the most money!

Call Today and We'll
Develop a Successful
Strategy for You!



Stephen Sullivan
"I'm in the Neighborhood!"
Lakeside/St. Francis Wood Office
415.338.0199
Stephen.Sullivan@camoves.com

A portion of all earnings supports
Friends of the Urban Forest



CALENDAR

MARCH

Calendar



Gilbert and George de Young Museum February 16 through May 18th

The de Young is the first of only three North American venues for Gilbert & George. Prior to coming to the de Young, the exhibition was on view at the Tate Modern, London, from February through May, 2007; Haus der Kunst, Munich, from June through September, 2007; and Castello de Rivoli, Turin, October 2007 through January 2008. Gilbert & George will travel to the Milwaukee Art Museum June through September 2008, and ends its international tour at the Brooklyn Museum of Art October 2008 through January 2009

Gilbert & George place themselves, their thoughts and their feelings at the centre of their art, and almost all of the images they use are gathered within walking distance of their home in London's East End. Yet their pictures capture a broad human experience, encompassing an astonishing range of emotions and themes, from rural idylls to gritty images of a decaying London; from fantastical brightly-coloured panoramas to raw examinations of humanity stripped bare; from sex advertisements to religious fundamentalism.

From the beginning, they wanted to communicate beyond the narrow confines of the art world, adopting the slogan 'Art for All'. As a result they have joined the very small handful of artists to become household names, and their impeccably-dressed figures are instantly recognisable to the general public. Bringing together a selection of pictures that spans their entire 40-year career, it is fitting that Gilbert & George: Major Exhibition is the largest retrospective of any artist to be held at Tate Modern.

George was born in Devon in 1942. Gilbert was born in Italy in 1943, in a small village in the Dolomites. They met as students on the sculpture course at St Martins School of Art, London, where they exhibited together and soon began to create art together. They adopted the identity of 'living sculptures' in both their art and their daily lives, becoming not only creators, but also the art itself.

ANNIE LIEBOVITZ: PHOTOGRAPHERS LIFE

Sat. Mar 1 - May 25 | Legion on Honor | Lincoln Park, 34th Avenue & Clement Street | For decades, Annie Leibovitz has artistically captured the icons of popular culture with her award-winning photography. Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005 looks at 200 of these photos as well as those she has taken of her family and close friends, and thus views a full "photographer's life." As Leibovitz says: "I don't have two lives."

MASTERPIECES OF TURKMEN WEAVING

Ongoing | de Young Museum, GoldenGate Park. A selection of premier examples from their world-class holdings of Turkmen rugs and textiles in For Tent and Trade: Masterpieces of Turkmen Weaving. During the past 25 years, FAMSF has developed the finest public collection of Turkmen carpets and other pile textiles outside Russia.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Fri. Mar. 7-22 | 7 pm | SF School of the Arts, Main Stage, 555 Portola Drive at O'Shaughnessy. Dancing teapots, singing candlesticks and a classic story of transformation through love - produced by the same team that created last year's spectacular "Fiddler on the Roof" - will enchant audiences of all ages. The public is welcome - especially children. C

CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS MARKET

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

CROSSROADS IRISH FESTIVAL

Sat. Mar 8 | 2-4pm | Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. The 2008 Crossroads Festival kicks off with a panel discussion on discovering heritage. Author Daniel Tobin and others will discuss the hidden and untold histories of the overlooked lives of activists, literary figures and others in Irish history.

SF FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

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

CLUTTER ADDICTION AND HOARDING

Thur. Mar 13 | 8:30am to 4:30am | Event Center, St. Mary's Cathedral. Institute on Aging: Secrets of the Aging Mind - Recognizing and Responding to Clutter Addiction and Compulsive Hoarding in Older Adults. 415-750-4180, ext.227, or <http://education.IOAging.org>

ORGANIC FRUIT TREE CARE

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

LAURA FLYNN: SWALLOW THE OCEAN

Mon. Mar 17 | 7pm | Sunset Branch Library. 1305 18th Ave. Laura Flynn reads from *Swallow the Ocean*. A native of San Francisco, Laura Flynn currently teaches writing at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, where she lives with her husband. Book signing will follow the event.

ARM CHAIR TOUR: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Wed. Mar 19 | 6:30pm | West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lennox Way. This talk will take you through the different areas of the new academy's green building to give you a sneak peak of what to expect when it opens to the public on Sept. 27

A NEW DEAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY

From March 22-May 31 | Main Library, 100 Larkin, 6th Fl. Thanks to WPA! - Celebrating the New Deal's 75th anniversary, this exhibition depicts life in San Francisco during the Great Depression and President Roosevelt's New Deal social programs. Drawing from the San Francisco History Center and San Francisco Historical Photograph Collections, the exhibit focuses on civic improvements to San Francisco's parks, streets and public buildings, many of which remain today and arts and theatre programs, all funded by the California State Emergency Relief Administration, the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). In addition, A New Deal for San Francisco looks at the controversies that surrounded these social welfare programs and the era's labor unrest.

SF FILM SOCIETY

Wed. Mar 26 | 7pm | Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St. SF360 Film+Club with Ty Evans, Spike Jonze and Cory Weincheque's Fully Flared, without question the most anticipated skateboarding video ever made. program starts at 7:30 pm. Complimentary tasting of Pearl Vodka will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets are

\$8 at the door or \$5 if reserved in advance by emailing SF360@sffs.org. Must be 21+ to attend.

OCEAN VIEW BOOK CLUB

Wed. Mar 26 | 6pm | Ocean View Branch Library, 345 Randolph St. Please call 355-5615 for current selection

SPRING FLING OPEN HOUSE

Thu. Mar 27 | 4:30-6:30pm | Ocean View Branch Library, 345 Randolph St. Join us in celebrating the library. Learn what the library has to offer. Magic show by Chin Chin. Prizes and snacks

TWELFTH NIGHT SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR

Sat. Mar 29th | 2-3pm | Ortega Branch Library, 3223 Ortega. St. Rich comic characters, mistaken identity and the search for true love will captivate audiences of all ages, including Shakespeare's most memorable songs, set to original folk music.

SF International Film Festival 51

April 24 - May 8 | 7pm | Castro Theater | Opens with Catherine Breillat's *The Last Mistress* (France) followed by the gala Opening Night party at 9:30 pm in the scenic setting of City View at Metreon, located on the penthouse level of 101 Fourth Street at Mission.

MICHAEL GORMAN PHOTOS

Tue Apr 1 - 31 | Parkside Library, More great pictures by our own staff photographer shows his work in photography.



To Submit Community Calendar items, include What-When-Where. E-mail to tpobserver@aol.com

Serving Food As Good As Our Prices Are Low

TENNESSEE GRILL

1128 Taraval St. • (415) 664-7834 • Open 6am-9pm

Where Friends Meet



DOGGIE DINER ICON CELEBRATES ANOTHER YEAR

The Doggie Diner Head is the symbol of the Doggie Diner. It is the surviving remnant of a chain of 30 Bay Area diners founded in 1949. This iconic community sign – a smiling 700-pound fiberglass dachshund wearing a white chef’s hat and bow tie – was designed in 1966 by Harold Bachman. The Doggie Diner on Sloat went out of business in 1986.

In May 2000, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to restore and relocate the sign. In April of 2001, it was further damaged when 45 mph winds knocked it over onto Sloat Boulevard. Its new home is on the median of Sloat and 45th since January 27, 2005 and this February 15th a determined group of supporters and children from the neighborhood gathered with DPW to celebrate the occasion.

DD was successfully moved into his new home on January 27, 2005. A few weeks later, on Valentine’s Day, the Department of Public Works, community leaders, neighborhood school children, and some real life rescued dogs from San Francisco’s Animal Care and Control came together to celebrate DD in his new home. The relocation of DD is another example of a successful partnership between DPW and community leaders, which made possible the rescue of this beloved community icon.

MOLLIE STONE'S

The Best of Both Worlds®



Tower Market
635 Portola Drive
(415) 6641600



Grand Central Market
2435 California Street
(415) 567-4902

Your Local Grocer for Fresh Meat, Seafood, Poultry, Produce, Deli & Catering.

Roti

INDIAN BISTRO

Modern Indian Cuisine

A festive and memorable occasion

An intimate gathering with friends or a festive luncheon event for a large group

Special Lunch Menu:
Tu-Sa: 11:30 am - 2: pm

Dinner Hours:
Su-Th: 5: - 10:30 pm
Fr-Sa: 5: - 11: pm

(415) 665-ROTI (7684) for reservations
53 West Portal Avenue



homes on esprit park

On the sunny side of San Francisco, in a vibrant district rich with history, Homes on Esprit Park offers the ideal in city living. Environmentally thoughtful construction merges the warmth of antique brick and wood with the best of modern engineering to create homes that suit the needs of creative individuals as beautifully as they suit the character of the neighborhood. Visit our website for information or stop by our on-site sales office to explore our 25 different floor plans.



www.espritpark.com
888 minnesota street @ 20th street san francisco ca 94107
info@espritpark.com • 415 920 1929

EXCLUSIVELY REPRESENTED BY MCGUIRE REAL ESTATE



Top Individual Producer in San Francisco's Largest Office



John Kirkpatrick is one of the top professionals representing San Francisco homes and investment properties.

John is a marketing expert with a strong professional and academic background. Dedication to detail and hardwork have enabled John to earn an exceptional reputation. John wins clients through proven results; achievements consistently exceed client expectations.

Recent Sales

The TRI Coldwell Banker agent who sold the most San Francisco properties companywide in 2007

Address	BD	BA	PK	SQFT	Sold Date	Sold Price
184 Amber Dr	4	2.5	1	2,020	02/15/08	1,000,000
301 Christopher Dr	3	2	3	1,714	02/22/08	928,000
56 Farview Ct	2	1	2	941	02/11/08	661,500
10 Sunview Dr	4	2	1	1,705	02/25/08	740,000
38 Aquavista Way	3	2	2	1,373	01/10/08	780,000
787 Myra Way	2	1	1	N/A	01/31/08	675,000
166 Marietta Dr	2	1	1	N/A	02/20/08	735,000
530 Rockdale Dr	2	1	1	1,170	02/07/08	845,050

source: sfmls

(415) 412-0559 · john@johnkirkpatrick.com · www.johnkirkpatrick.com



Assisted Living Dementia Care



we are changing...
the image of aging.

One Thomas More Way
San Francisco, CA | www.almavia.org
Call for information 415.337.1339



"residents are the heart of our community"

AlmaVia of San Francisco, an Elder Care Alliance community is cosponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Burlingame & the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. RCFE Lic # 385600270.

The Steak Experience

Alfred's
STEAKHOUSE

Since 1928

Real Steak Real Martini Real San Francisco

Complimentary Self Parking (For Dinner Only)

At The Financial District Hilton's Public Parking Entrance on Washington St.

659 Merchant Street (by Kearny & Washington)
415.781.7058 www.alfredssteakhouse.com

SECOND THOUGHTS

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR THE RICH AND FAMOUS

by Jack Kaye



There has been much debate about the fairness and effectiveness of giving favorable treatment to people who have suffered from past discrimination. Some believe that giving disadvantaged people extra credit in school, employment and promotional considerations is the least we can do to "level the playing field." Some believe that it weakens the disadvantaged group by making it easier for its members and not forcing them to give more than 100 percent.

In California, as in other states, the use of affirmative action criteria or preference in education and employment decisions is illegal. But there is still affirmative action. It is not for the poor underprivileged. It is not for those who are the first in their families to go to college. The affirmative action prevalent in the nation's best private colleges and universities affects as many as half of the schools' enrollment.

The Ivy League schools like Yale and Harvard are famous for admitting the children of rich or famous people and of alumni who have made generous donations to the school. Stanford, the school that was started in order to provide Californians with an excellent affordable education, accepts out of state and, even, international children of famous and prominent people, while California students with perfect grades and test scores are turned away because they have no connections.

The average grade point average of elite, private college graduates is an amazing 3.5, meaning the average student in these prestigious schools, gets only an equal number of 'A's' and 'B's.' This is not the case at the nations top public universities. So not only do the privileged get into the best schools, they get great grades to boot.

Our two most recent presidential races show how serious this problem has been. George Bush, Joe Lieberman, Howard Dean, and John Kerry all went to Yale as did Presidents George W. H. Bush and Bill Clinton before them. One can only wonder how some of them would have gotten in back then had it not been for their parents. I believe that Bill Clinton got into Yale law school on his own merit, but John McCain's father and grandfather were naval four-star admirals and he graduated in the bottom five percent of his Annapolis class.

When you listen to our most recent Yalie president who also went to one of the best prep schools in the country and got an MBA at Harvard, you wonder what happened. How could that much education be lost on a single person? He, like his father, seems to have no concept of grammar or diction. But even beyond the severe verbal limitations, our president seems to also never to have learned logic, critical thinking or ethics.

With the most glaring example of the perils of this good-old-boy system of higher education sitting in the Oval Office, even these prestigious schools themselves should take stock and realize enough is enough. No more affirmative action for the children of important parents.

If this society wants to build an aristocracy that is truly well-educated and wise, our institutions of higher learning should accept students based on their own accomplishments, not those of their ancestors. That way people of all kinds will know that they must do their very best to succeed and, that if they do, they will be judged and rewarded accordingly.

Isn't that what a democracy is all about: equal opportunity to excel?

Look for John (Jack) Kaye's new novel, "Reflections of a Freelance Monk" available at the West Portal Bookstore, Green Apple Books on Clement and Books, Inc. in Laurel Village.

Round Table
PIZZA

The Last Honest Pizza.

15% Off
Any Purchase

737 Portola Drive
681-9595

Good only at Round Table Portola.
Coupons cannot be combined.

Coupon expires 3/31/08



SF General Hospital: Rebuild vs. Retrofit

By Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, M.D.

The Environmental Review for SF General Hospital Seismic Compliance Hospital Replacement is slated for release to the public in March of 2008.

San Francisco General Hospital is a 130 year old institution. It is the only Level 1 Trauma center serving San Francisco and Northern San Mateo county. The hospital operates 282 acute medical and surgical beds that are filled to capacity 97% of the time. Ambulances are forced to divert to other hospitals in San Francisco over 20% of the time because of this critical shortage in bed capacity. The hospital is one of two located within the cities southeast sector, providing primary and emergency services to predominantly low income communities of color. St. Lukes Hospital is currently threatened with closure including its emergency services.

In 2004 a Blue Ribbon Committee recommended that a new acute care hospital be constructed on the West Lawn of the SFGH Medical Center campus facing Potrero Avenue. Other options were explored including the co-location of a new acute care hospital to the Mission Bay campus where UCSF is also planning to construct a new hospital that will be operational by 2014. The proposed new "General Hospital" will increase its acute care bed capacity by one bed! The hospital will increase four times in area. The existing main hospital, like over 500 hospitals in the state of California, does not meet the seismic safety standards mandated by Senate Bill 1953. This legislation followed the collapse of a hospital in the aftermath of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. It requires all California acute care hospitals to remain intact and fully operational in the aftermath of a major earthquake.

SB 1953 does not require that SF General Hospital be rebuilt. It mandates that any hospital not retrofitted by this year that poses a risk of collapse or loss of life cannot be used for acute care until it has been stabilized. Because public funding does not exist to upgrade the state's hospitals, many facilities have applied for a five year extension.

On November 4, 2008 SF voters will be asked to pass an \$800 million dollar bond measure to fund the SFGH rebuild. Consider the following facts:



1. The expansion of bed capacity by one bed represents a serious overall reduction in services. The May 2006 report of the Civil Grand Jury on Disaster Medical Preparedness identified the need for up to 600 surge capacity beds in the setting of a major disaster or public health emergency. Additionally, an independent consultant retained by the Controllers Office, reported that half of SF's hospitals are operating at an 85% occupancy level and the city faces a 533 acute care bed shortage over the coming years.

2. The EIR for the SFGH rebuild may not adequately analyze the significant noise and safety impacts of the simultaneous construction of the new hospital on the West Lawn, while the existing hospital in Building 5 remains fully operational. The EIR proposes the relocation of a rooftop helipad from Building 5 to the new main hospital without

an adequate analysis of noise, safety and flight arrival and departure routes. The EIR for the proposed rooftop helipad on Building 5 has yet to be released to the public. There is concern that the delay in release of the SFGH Helipad EIR is deliberate and intentional given the organized opposition to the citing of helipad at the hospital that has existed for over 20 years. Aeromedical helicopter crash rates have increased according to a USA Today data base. The noise, rotor wash and potential aviation disaster posed by a helipad cited in a dense, unaccepting urban neighborhood adjacent to freeways and within one

mile of downtown San Francisco cannot be ignored. 3. The EIR for the SFGH rebuild may not adequately analyze the seismic retrofit alternative for the existing hospital given evidence that it may be more cost effective and less time intensive. Given the \$227 million dollar budget shortfall and the \$25 million dollars from the General Fund that will be encumbered by the Rebuild project in FY 2007-8, alternatives should be considered. These alternatives must also include a co-location of the planned UCSF acute care hospital and the SFGH acute care hospitals to the Mission Bay Campus.

Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, M.D. West Portal

"...absent new capacity, the City's hospitals will increasingly lack adequate surge capacity to meet demands in the event of a public safety or public health emergency"

Report to SF DPH Health Commission 12/18/07
Lewin Group Consulting

Elsbernd Cont. from p. 1

whose occupational descriptions are in development, real estate or property owning businesses. Individuals make contributions for any number of reasons that often may have nothing to do with narrow self-interest, key votes or anything beyond positive regard for a candidate. The connection that exists in the popular mind between campaign contributions and political outcomes is often more nuanced and complicated than one-dimensional campaign finance reform advocates care to admit but they are suggestive nonetheless. Academics argue bitterly about what

boundaries and limitations elected officials encounter in office because of the fundraising they have to do to survive politically.

District 7 is one of the most affluent districts in an affluent town. In four years on the Board of Supervisors Elsbernd has supported new construction development; property owners often feeling besieged by tenant activists; and downtown business interests often at odds with a liberal Board of Supervisors given to experimenting with everything from paid sick days to universal health care coverage.

EDUCATION & OTHER GOOD STUFF by Carol Kocivar

Pink Slips in the Mail: Shame on You!

The blossoms on the trees.
The sweet smell of night-blooming jasmine.
And oh yes, pink slip in the mail to thousands of the most important people in our community: Our teachers. Our administrators. And other school staff.

Pink slips. What a quaint way to refer to the letters from school districts telling their staff there is not enough money to pay them.

Pink Slips
This isn't one of those school rituals we should be proud of. It is one of the most shameful budgetary rituals of Spring

San Francisco
"Nearly 400 teachers and 140 administrators in the San Francisco Unified School District will receive pink slips March 15 — warnings that their jobs could be eliminated this summer due to budget cuts." (San Francisco Examiner 2/28/08)

Plug in another city and you will find similar headlines.

Berkeley Unified School District: The school board has indicated that the district will likely be forced to lay off counselors and college advisors, and to reduce or eliminate nutrition programs, after-school programs and transportation. The superintendent recently warned that everything but bare necessities is "on the chopping block." [The Daily Californian, 2/5/08; The Berkeley Daily Planet, 1/25/08; Oakland Tribune, 2/13/08]**

Los Angeles Unified School District: The state's largest district is facing \$560-million in potential cuts to its budget through 2008-09. The combined sums, according to news reports, would amount to the district's biggest shortfall ever, and would be equivalent to closing 22 high schools, firing 5,750 employees or instituting an 8% pay cut for all employees. The district's superintendent notes, "When I first saw the governor's proposed budget, quite frankly, I was in a state of shock." [Los Angeles Times, 2/21/08]**

The California State PTA is organizing events throughout the State to Flunk the Budget. Flunk this proposal to cut nearly \$4.8 billion from our schools. If you thought Proposition 13 was bad---as they say---you ain't seen nothing yet.

Take Action Now: Call your elected officials and tell them:

- I oppose any cuts to education and children's programs in the state budget.
- This budget flunks the basic test of good government: It hurts our children.
- Our children did not create this financial crisis and they should not have to pay for it.

If you are reaching for the phone, here are the numbers:

Leland Yee (916) 651-4008 (415) 557-7857	Fiona Ma (916) 319-2012 (415) 557-2312
Carole Migden (916) 651-4003 (415) 557-1300	Mark Leno (916) 319-2013 (415) 557-3013

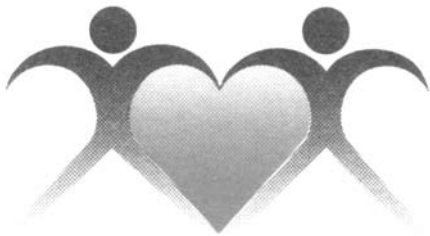
Shintasoft Computer Service

CompTIA A+ Certified
Over 8 Years of Experience
Best Quality Tech Services For Less
24/7 Available & Onsite Services
Same Day Service if No Parts Required
Diagnostic and Repair for PC desktop & laptop
Full System Tune-Up



Tom You
415-573-7938
www.shintasoft.com
shintasoft@gmail.com

"This is Tom when he started using computers in 1995, he's not a little kid anymore."



SMALL * FRIENDLY * CARING

SAN BRUNO SKILLED NURSING HOSPITAL

890 El Camino Real • San Bruno, CA 94066
(650) 583-7768

Christine Nacion, Administrator

Big Plans at Park Merced

Parkmerced is continuing to unveil the plan would add 6000 more units to the development that already has over 3200 units, an increase that has local planning advocates worried about the already overtaxed transportation problems, especially around MUNI and the troubled 19th Avenue corridor.

“Adding 6000 units could mean as many as 20,000 more residents using the streets and services in the area,” said Mara Kopp, at a recent neighborhood meeting, adding “19th Avenue is already beyond safe capacity standards.” More development in the area should be accompanied by some solid planning studies and mitigating solutions to the overcrowded transportation systems now in place.

The current Parkmerced is a 115 acre development that was built in the ‘40s and ‘50s to satisfy a housing crunch that existed at the time. Eight were built around the country to house servicemen. It is an aging facility, with infrastructure issues, designed in an era that doesn’t meet current lifestyles and environmental realities. Deferred maintenance issues will require \$120 million in renovating facilities as they are now. Plans also include 30% homeownership.

Parkmerced executives have been canvassing neighbors for improvements for the last year to develop a long term improvement plan—a phased development that will slowly take place over the next 15 to 20 years. Two to three



Plans include moving this MUNI stop from 19th and Holloway into Park Merced

hundred units per year will be added, officials said, promising that no one will be moved off the site. There will not be a change in the view corridor down to the ocean, the additions will stay at or below existing height limits. Some new buildings will be constructed at the height of the current midrise buildings but most construction will continue to

be within the low-rise envelope and within the tree canopy. There will be a net increase in automobiles, but an overall decrease in automobile trips according to developers who plan to add neighborhood serving businesses within the development in hopes of decreasing trips. Improvements will be paid for by homeownership revenues,



THE SCENE

Youth, Sex, Betrayal, Greed in New York playwright Theresa Rebeck’s Scene, performed at the S.F. Playhouse in a West Coast premiere under the expert direction of Amy Glazer, brings a portrayal that is as sordid as it is comical concerning today’s morals. At the play’s start we meet antagonistic heroine Clea, an attractive young upstart who both despises and prides herself that every man wants her for sex. And, in order to boost her self-esteem, she proceeds to use sex to conquer one male after the other. Charlie, married to Stella, is her present victim, who at first firmly resists Clea’s advances but then lets it all happen because he is married to an all too perfect wife. But after she has won her victory, Clea will nonchalantly move on to conquer others, betraying Charlie who in turn has betrayed his wife, who, in turn, will betray Charlie by going off with Lewis, Charlie’s best friend.

Rebeck’s dramatic action, characterization and dialogue beneath a dialogue filled with banal bantering, swear words and frequently utilizing the F word that provokes easy laughter, along with uninhibited and rapacious love making. Rebeck is bluntly satirizing and criticizing the bad conduct of our present generation. Looking back at the play, one no longer sees it as an exciting and amusing momentary sensual experience but a deeper one about the very behavior that made us laugh.

A slim, youthful and sexy Heather Gordon plays Clea as an authoritative, unscrupulous and provocative female. Aaron Davidman, artistic director of the San Francisco Traveling Jewish Theatre, moves from the reserved and indifferent male to Clea’s passionate lover. Nancy Carlin rose to the challenge with a convincing interpretation of the staid Stella who melts into a warmer more compassionate human being at the play’s end. Howard Swain’s eccentric Lewis, with moments of comic facial and body movement, lightens the darker side of the comedy.

Scenic design by Artistic director Bill English is minimal and varied enough to allow for fast changing sets and allows actors to move freely on a constricted stage space. Michael Oesch

on lights magically and rapidly solved a couple of technical problems that a good-willed audience and ardent fans of the S.F. Playhouse applauded.

Theresa Rebeck’s plays, including The Scene, are well known to the New York stage, She has written abundantly for TV and film and will publish her first novel, Three Girls and Their Brother, in the spring of 2008.

The S.F. Playhouse continues to strengthen its reputation as an intimate family style theatre.

The Scene runs through March 8. For info. or upcoming plays at the S.F. Playhouse call 415-677-9596 or TicketWeb.com.

SONNY’S BLUES,

Harlem and beyond in James Baldwin’ Sonny’s Blues, presented by Word for Word Company in association with the Z Space Studio, opened at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre on February 9 to a standing ovation. In flashback style and presented through a narrator/character, Baldwin’s play depicts the relationship from an early age between a brother schoolteacher and his younger brother obsessed by jazz. The older brother, a schoolteacher married with children who has also been in the army, is not Sonny’s choice of a life style. Sonny lives only for his dream of becoming a jazz pianist. As a child he refused to go to school and soon fell into a group of drug addicts where he could freely play the piano and do drugs to bury his frustration. Later he will attempt to flee Harlem to avoid this life style and the drugs that will bring about his ruination. Sonny’s brother has promised his mother he will take care of his younger brother and help him. It will take Sonny’s brother a lifetime to understand Sonny’s need to find himself through his music, only when he takes the time to listen to Sonny’s pain through his music.

Acting credits go to Peter Macon as the brother/narrator. Da’ Mon Vann’s Sonny, physically suited to the role of the emaciated, troubled drug victim artist, brings out these qualities a bit too subtly on an emotional level. Margarette Robinson steals the show as the Mother and in other female and male roles with her deep singing voice and magnetic stage presence. Allison L. Payne, among her other roles, is a buoyant Isabel. Mujahid Abdul-Rashid moves with dignity and authority from Creole to Father. Robert Hampton captivates the wasted allure of Sonny’s drug addict friend convincingly. Sets and props (Lisa Dent) are kept to a minimum on the bare stage that actually strengthens the content as it allows for a deeper concentration on the dramatic narrative. Laura Hazlett’s cos-

tumes, simple and modest, harmonize with the characters and milieu.

Marcus Shelby’s original musical score provides the musical background and sometimes the foreground without ever detracting from the narrated action. The award-winning composer, bassist and Bay Area teacher is committed to the use of jazz to convey the history and legacy of African-Americans.

In Baldwin’s own words, “A lot of negro style, the style of a man like Miles Davis, or Ray Charles or the style of a man like myself is based on a knowledge of what people are really saying and on our refusals to hear it. You pick up the beat, which is more truthful than words.”

Word for Word Company, founded by Joanne Winter and Susan Harloe, in its aim to utilize short stories for dramatization, has succeeded in staging works of various periods and kinds in the Bay Area and Beyond. Sonny’s Blues plays through March 8. For information call 415-474-9900 or go to www.zspace.org or lhts.org.

Annette Lust, member Drama faculty Dominican University and S.F. Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle.

ONLY IN SAN FRANCISCO AT PIER 39

Insignificant Others is a new musical comedy by San Francisco playwright-composer-lyricist, L.J. Kuo, formerly awarded Best Original Musical Script by the Bay Area Theatre Critic’s Circle. This delightful original show follows the romantic hopes of five friends, two gay men and three straight women, Margaret (Sarah Kathleen Farrell), Jeannine (Omi Fernandez), Kristen (Jennifer Graham), Jordan (Jason Hoover), and Luke (Alex Rodriguez) who move to San Francisco from Cleveland, Ohio seeking love and adventure. Through hilarity and heartbreak, these friends discover the bonds of friendship they havewith one another. In 24 songs with choreography, these performers relate their experiences as new arrivals.

At the center of these tales of the City is Margaret (the strong and winning Sarah Kathleen Farrell) on the lookout for Mr. Right—a designation given considerable latitude in a city with a scarce supply of heterosexual men which becomes the excuse for three of the productions most crowd pleasing and clever scenes that steal the show.

The direction of George Quick and the choreography of David Garcia offer a lively production and the musicians, David Manley and Mie Araki, Scott MacDiarmid and Joe Willcockson provide flawless renditions of Kuo’s tunes.

Insignificant Others is in an Open-Ended Run at Theatre 39 at Pier 39, second level, Beach Street at Embarcadero, San Francisco. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For tickets and info, visit www.isomusical.com or call 415-346-7805.

ARTHUR AND ESTHER

Taylor Hanes shines in Arthur and Esther by British playwright, Ross Howard, is the story of a librarian, played by Taylor Hanes, and his attempt to reconcile the ghosts of his past with the promise of the future. Hanes is ever inch the dedicated librarian Arthur, who tells the story of his grandfather Dewey who invented the Dewey Decimal System by setting a picture of his grandfather on the table and by showing us a family album. He then shows a picture of Arthur’s father who changed the family name to Huey. He also shows us a picture of his wife, Esther, whose last name was Roget, as is Roget’s Thesaurus.

As Act I opens in an empty library, small time librarian Arthur Huey’s world is crumbling. He has just lost his library which is being turned into an office and he just lost his wife, Esther.

Taylor Hanes is superb as he puts on Arthur’s glasses and tells us how he saved a book from the library called 20 Ways to Terminate Your Existence. Then Arthur proceeds to take out various objects to end his life—pills, a rope to hang himself, gasoline and matches, a knife and a pistol. But Arthur now remembers who he is and who he represents—the Dewey values of integrity and loyalty and the Dewey Decimal mode of being—a mark of achievement, a history.

Act II is set hours later by a lake. In order to reconcile his hurt feelings over his wife Esther leaving him after 23 years of marriage, for his friend Chuck, Arthur puts a different spin on his story. Arthur next takes out Esther’s clothes one by one and as he tries them on, he suddenly becomes Esther complete with a black wig, trying to contact him to make amends for what she has done to him.

The setting in each act was sparse leaving the main emphasis on character development. Originally staged by Sarah Norris, the direction was smooth, inventive and full of surprises. Olivia Griffin handled the lighting effects and the musical interludes quite well.

Arthur and Esther made its West coast premiere at the Phoenix Theatre Annex. This dark comedy had previously won acclaim at this year’s New York Fringe Festival.

Flora Lynn Isaacson

Taraval Officers Increase Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Enforcement is an important part of the duties of officers assigned to the Taraval Police Station. There are ten (10) district police stations in San Francisco. In October, November and December Taraval was #5 and #6 of the stations in the number of moving traffic citations issued. In January we were #3 of the stations. Congratulations to the officers and the supervisors who are enhancing vehicular and pedestrian safety for the community that we serve.

West Portal residents have been concerned with teens who drink alcohol and loiter in the evening hours at the West Portal playground. Night Lieutenants John Feeney and Michael Caplan have formulated a plan for frequent passing calls and enforcement. You will see this situation abated.

Neighbors have seen an increase in loitering, drug dealing, reckless driving and related issues with students and non-students around Lincoln High School. The Taraval Neighborhood Team led by Sgt. Robert Padrones will be quite visible around the school in the coming days. Also, solo motorcycle officers Larry Chan and Regina Berrigan will be conducting strict traffic enforcement in the area.

POLICE BLOTTER



To see the complete month's reports, go to: www.tpobserver.com. If you would like to receive a daily, complete police report e-mailed to you, call 759-3100

Notes of an Alte Kocker Lothari

by A. K.

One of the unexpected consequences of being a Lothario (Why are amorous men called Romeos? Romeo was faithful to his Juliet. Killed himself rather than live without her. He was the most monogamous of men. But I digress.) is that one meets lots of people. Actually one meets lots of women which is both more interesting and much harder on the nerves and wits than it sounds. Women are strange creatures, much stranger than men. Men are content with sex, beer, and whatever sport is in season. Women feel that the curtains aren't quite right. They are prepared to spend a lot of their time, their trouble, and your money on the problem. Men have never noticed the curtains. "There are curtains?"

First there is the selection problem. I use the analogy of a \$20 dollar bill lying on Market Street. How long will it lie there? Not long. Everyone wants it. But a cigarette butt will lie on Market Street for quite a long time because no one wants it. The same is true of the dating-and-sometimes-marrying market. If a woman is in all ways desirable, she will be snatched up quickly. The first man acceptable to her will carry her off. Carry her off not only into the sunset on his beautiful white stallion, but also off the dating-and-sometimes-marrying market.

Which means that those remaining are those less desirable than the one riding west on the horse with her beau. So they stay on the market longer. By simple economics, the more picked-over the women are, the less desirable the remaining ones are. The same should be true of the men as well, perhaps even more so.

Here the advantages of having an advanced degree and the associated intellectual superiority come into play. That bleak prospect doesn't actually work itself all the way out to its logical conclusion. Economics works when people behave rationally. But we don't. Billions of dollars are spent on bottled water every year. On the Peninsula there is a large prosperous truck dealership with a huge sign declaring, "Size Matters!" Considering all the hay bales being hauled and livestock being transported on the Peninsula, we can speculate that the size in question is not that of the trucks.

Date-and-mate seekers are at least as irrational. The woman who describes herself as "strong and outspoken" means that she is a bitch. Most men, rational men, would avert their eyes from the virago. Yet there are others, irrational men, who want just such women. They have someone to tell them what to do at work. They need someone to tell them what to do at home too. It is legendary that such couples make each other miserable but stay together for decades.

Many women like men who describe themselves as "strong and silent". By which they mean inarticulate, stubborn, and haven't had a thought of their own since 1981. And that they are drunken, depressed, and occasionally violent. You know, like Daddy.

So what makes someone stay on the dating market for a long time? The leading cause of lying on the Market Street sidewalk is the unconscious unwillingness to connect with anyone. The main difference between men and women is that men are generally conscious of not wanting to commit. Women generally are either unconscious of their unwillingness to commit, or they lie to themselves about it. The underlying reality is the same though.

The overlying reality is wildly different though. For example:

Scene: I meet a woman online. She is witty, intelligent, writes well. I like her. She thinks the same of me. I ask her out. We meet at a fancy restaurant in Berkeley (has to be a public place because the guy is always an axe murderer until proven otherwise). As I have come to expect, her picture is 15 years and 30 pounds out of date. We have a lovely dinner, and enjoy each other's company. I walk her to her car. She suggests my car. A naïf of 60, I don't get it. After necking in the car for a few minutes (I would like to tell you it was like being 16 again but at 16 I had neither a girlfriend nor a car) she suggests my place. Off we go.

Chez moi there is the downstairs couch then the upstairs bedroom. She shows me why gays do it that way. (Facing each other – get your mind out of the gutter here....) This evening became this morning and life was fine.

It was like an unexpected birthday and I was looking forward to many happy returns of the day. I actually wrote in my diary the next day that the lady was a keeper. A few days later she called and pretty much demanded that I drop all other lady friends and see only her -- indefinitely.

Coming back to the purpose of the anecdote, her purpose was, I am convinced, to drive me away. She had to know what the answer had to be. That she chose a spectacularly roundabout way to do it doesn't change the underlying logic. She has to have known that a commitment cannot be made in a single day, not even in a single night. I would like to think that I am such a prize that she was so smitten with me after a single meeting that she just had to have me, for the night and for keeps. But I don't.



PROFESSIONAL, SAFE AND RELIABLE
INSURED - GENERAL LIABILITY AND WORKERS COMP
CA License #807495
415-503-1790
www.mrhandyman.com

27 Tips to Drive Up the Sale Price of Your Home

SAN FRANCISCO - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price and shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make you competitive in today's tough aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips, you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, and make the most profit possible.

In this report, you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1-800-597-2108, ID# 2018. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or Visit: www.Sf-HomesellersTips.com

ADVERTISEMENT



ACE PHARMACY / NEW LIFE

HOME CARE SPECIALISTS
(415) 731-3535

Open 365 Days a Year

Prescriptions • Tuckables/Underpads/Diapers
Authorized WINGS Diaper Distributor
Ostomy • Skin Care Products
Complete Convalescent Supplies
Diabetic Supplies • Wheelchairs • Walkers
Private Charge Accounts
Med-Cal, and Insurance Billing

2505 Noriega St. San Francisco

ALEXANDER COLLECTIONS

Vintage Jewelry • Fine Alpaca Wool Sweaters
Scarves, Shawls, Coats from South America
• Unique gifts from around the world

309 West Portal Avenue • 661-5454

VENEZIA UPHOLSTERY



311 West Portal Avenue
664-2900

Upholstery • Drapery • Restoration
Interior Design

HOMEWORK HASSLES?

FAMILY TIME'S BETTER SPENT. SEE


WWW.MY STUDY BUDDY.ORG

PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND SPECIAL LENTEN EVENT AT ALMAVIA SF

San Francisco, Calif. – AlmaVia of San Francisco invites the community to attend a Lenten Morning of Reflection on Saturday, March 8 with the Most Reverend George H. Niederauer, Archbishop of San Francisco.

The event will begin with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. at St. Thomas More Church, located adjacent to AlmaVia of San Francisco, followed by a Lenten Reflection by the Archbishop and celebration of Mass. A lunch buffet will then take place at AlmaVia of San Francisco. Space is limited and reservations can be made by calling 415-337-1339.

AlmaVia of San Francisco is an assisted living retirement community, cosponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Burlingame and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A wide range of care from general assisted living to Dementia care services are provided at AlmaVia of San Francisco. For more information, visit www.almavia.org.

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS TIP?**

The West of Twin Peaks Observer needs to know! Call Phyliss **821-9443** or e-mail tpobserver@aol.com

END JOKES

UPSTATE NEW YORK WOMAN

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given duties to their new wives.

The first man had married a woman from South Dakota and had told her that she was going to do dishes and house cleaning.

It took a couple of days, but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man had married a woman from Nebraska. He had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking.

The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day he saw that it was better. By the third day, he saw that his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a woman from Upstate New York. He told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal.

The first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day some of the swelling had gone down, and he could see a

little out of his left eye, enough to fix himself a bite to eat and load the dishwasher.

THE MOM TEST

I was out walking with my 4 year old daughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth.

I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that. 'Why?' my daughter asked. 'Because it's been on the ground, you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs' I replied.

At this point, my daughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, 'Momma, how do you know all this stuff, you are so smart.'

I was thinking quickly. 'All moms know this stuff. It's on the Mom Test. You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Mom.'

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information.

'OH...I get it!' she beamed, 'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the dad. 'Exactly' I replied back with a big smile on my face.

PARTING THOUGHT

"He was a bold man that first eat an oyster."
Jonathon Swift

Beverly's
Your Craft & Fabric Store

40% off

Any One Item
Including one cut of fabric.
Excludes Fabrics, Webkinz, and Ty
*** Expires 3/31/08

418 Westlake Center, Daly City • (650) 756-7999

WEST PORTAL SHOE SERVICE
WE FIX ALL LEATHER GOODS

"We'll heel your shoe
Your sole is our command
We'll even dye for you"



79 WEST PORTAL (Next to Empire Theatre)
Monday to Saturday • 8am – 6pm • 661-1888

Publisher: Phyllis Sherman
Managing Editor: Doug Comstock
Assoc. Editor: Hilda Abrevaya
Account Representatives: Billie Lowe (415) 665-7942
Marjorie Ford (415) 674-3570
Contributors: Writers: **Hank Basayne, Eric Castenada, John Dunbar, Jack Kaye, Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Annette Lust, Reobert Mendelsohn, Don Lee Miller, Ahimsa Porter Sumchai, MD, George Wooding,**
Photos: Michael Gorman, Doug Comstock

The ideas and opinions expressed in these pages are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the staff or publisher of this paper. The West of Twin Peaks Observer is a free monthly newspaper serving the entire West of Twin Peaks area of San Francisco. Our circulation is 20,000 copies, distributed 10 times a year. 12,000 are distributed door-to-door, 1,500 are distributed via free distribution racks in the West of Twin Peaks area, as well as key drop-off points, including merchants banks and public libraries.

PO Box 31489, SF 94131 • 415 821-9443 • TPObserver@aol.com • www.tpobserver.com

Help Wanted:

The WOTP Observer offers generous commissions for Sales Representatives. Volunteer reporters and photographers needed. Earn valuable experience in the newspaper trade, including heaps of abuse, unmanageable hours and no respect. **Phyllis: 821-9443**

Proudly Serving The Families of West of Twin Peaks

"Caring Service is our Highest Priority"



The Bud Duggan Family Serving the Bay Area Since 1903

Duggan's Serra Mortuary, Daly City	415/587-4500	FD1098
Driscoll's Valencia St. Serra Mortuary, SF	415/970-8801	FD1665
Sullivan's Funeral Home, SF	415/661-4567	FD 228

Parking Available at all locations

Most Convenient San Francisco/Peninsula Locations
Traditional and Cremation Services
Contact our Pre-Arrangement Department for your
FREE Personal Planning Guide
"My Funeral, My Way"



VISA, MASTERCARD & DISCOVER ACCEPTED

duggansserra.com driscollsmortuary.com sullivanfuneralandcremation.com

Betty Taisch
Top Producer



It takes more than a sign to sell your home.

I offer you the knowledge and experience needed in today's active market - plus local, nationwide, and international marketing. Call me today to learn more about buying or selling your home

CRS, LTG, PMN, CRB, SRES, EPRO

International President's Premiere

Top 1% Nationally



(415)338-0121 betty@taisch.com www.taisch.com

