



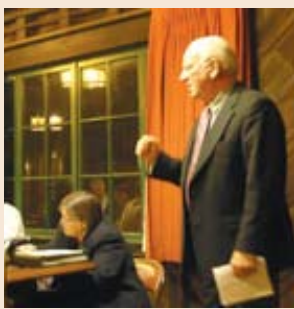
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Olivia Scanlon, Aide to Sean Elsbernd at Ethics Probe

Luke Thomas - fogcityjournal.com

**Star Witness Against
Tony Hall Pleads the 5th!**

Olivia Scanlon, the Ethics Commission's star witness against Tony Hall in their 3 year long effort against the former District 7 Supervisor, plead the 5th Amendment against self-incrimination as the hearing progressed on October 27. She was a former Aide to Hall. Scanlon, who also serves as an Aide to Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, appeared at the hearing in response to a subpoena from Hall's attorney David Waggoner. He had earlier filed a criminal charge against Scanlon that alleged she tampered with evidence, as reported in the September Observer.

At the hearing into the anonymous complaint filed at the Ethics Commission charging that Hall improperly used campaign funds for personal expenses, Ethics Commissioners heard testimony from defense witnesses. But when it came time for the testimony from the prosecution's star witness, Olivia Scanlon, who had been summoned to answer questions about the discrepancy in the evidence, she plead the 5th Amendment in connection with her previous testimony in the matter.

In September the Commission heard testimony in support of the allegations. It included charges that then Supervisor Hall had misused funds, repaying Scanlon \$12,000 from campaign funds for a personal loan that she had made to Hall, and charges that he had bought food and gas for campaign workers and volunteers without filing the necessary paperwork, and that he purchased personal gifts for his wife and daughters with a campaign credit card in the amount of \$320.

The pivotal evidence, the checks Scanlon submitted to the Ethics Investigators as evidence of the alleged loan, came into question when it was discovered that there were two versions of the same check. One version had the notation "services" in the lower left corner, indicating the reason for the payment, the other check, bearing the same number and contained in the official exhibit at the trial, had no such notation, which led to

the questions surrounding the evidence which precipitated the criminal charges brought against Scanlon for tampering with evidence. Commissioners and the Ethics leadership continue, however, to press on with the hearings into the matter in spite of the shaky evidence.

Hall noted the cost to the people of the City for the hearings, "it is unfortunate, because the taxpayers are also the victims of this over-zealous prosecution. With four City employees working on this case for the last three years—when

that time is tallied—the expense may well be over a million dollars. I know there are better uses for our hard-earned tax dollars. This incredible attack on my character is unprecedented, as far as I know. I remain confident that the Commission will make the right decision, but there has to be better

"The case against Tony Hall has been politically motivated from the beginning and the fact that the woman making these allegations in the first place had to take the Fifth today to avoid perjuring herself even further in this matter bears out the absurdity of the charges against him."

—David Waggoner, Attorney for Tony Hall

oversight of shenanigans like this. I hope the Ethics Commission will get its priorities clear to assure the public that it is not driven by political agendas."

At the hearing, Commissioners heard Peter Fatooh testify that Scanlon had misused theater tickets he had secured to be used as gifts to campaign volunteers and donors and, he said, that he stopped helping the campaign because she had used them herself. He said he "stopped taking her calls," because "she lied about their use."

Contractor Michael Buckley testified that he had considered hiring Scanlon's husband, Seamus Cudden, as a subcontractor, but refused to pay

Cont. p. 6

**RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER CITIZEN SUPERVISOR
History Repeats Itself**

by Quentin Kopp

If you live long enough, you do indeed watch history repeat itself in one form or another. On November 4, California voters command the opportunity to approve Proposition 1A, a \$9,950,000,000 State general obligation bond to enable construction of the California High Speed Rail Project. Proposition 1A, which you will find in the slim Supplemental State Voter Information Guide, constitutes the financial foundation for the first phase of the Project from San Francisco to San Jose across the Pacheco Pass to Merced, Fresno and Bakersfield in the Central Valley, then to Palmdale, downtown Los Angeles' Union Station (in 125 minutes) and Anaheim's new transportation center (in another 20 minutes)



at a cost of \$33,000,000,000. With voter approval of Proposition 1A, design and engineering can be completed in 2009, construction begun in 2010 and the 220-mile-per-hour high speed train will be ready for usage to Los Angeles and Anaheim by 2018, with the possibility that segments such as San Francisco to San Jose in 30 minutes and Los Angeles to Anaheim in 20 minutes may be opened earlier.

As Chairman of the California High Speed Rail Authority, I am convinced that starting in 2009 the Congress and President of the United States will enact legislation providing at least \$11,000,000,000 and perhaps as much as \$17,000,000,000 to defray the first phase's cost, with private investors (including pension systems such as the California Public Employees Retirement System) furnishing the balance of capital expenditure. Already, in early October President Bush signed a rail transportation bill which

Cont. p. 7

Get Dirty

By Warren Hinckle

Hatchet-wielding overpaid City hall bureaucrats have quietly devised and implemented a plan to cut the annual costs of street cleaning by weaning the West Side of San Francisco from weekly street cleaning to twice a month.

The eastern side of the city will continue to receive weekly street cleaning, sources say.

The new plan will primarily affect Districts 2, 4 and 7.

These areas will be cleaned only on the first and third weeks of the month, rather than weekly. The abbreviated street cleaning program launched in August. Adhesive stickers were produced for the Dept. of Parking and Traffic to stick on the current street signs giving city warnings to move your cars on a street-cleaning day. Put up on the West Side of town only, the stickers advise residents that street cleaning will now happen only twice a month in their area.

Only 20,000 stickers were ordered, so it is clear that they were not designated for citywide signs.

The recommendation that the West Side of San Francisco be left dirty twice a month came from a private consultant firm hired by the city, according to sources. The cost of the consulting contract has not been ascertained.

There appears to be elements of class analysis and voter ballot box power in the independent consultant’s recommendation to leave the greater west side of town to clean up its own streets. The presumption appears to be that west side home owners are more tidy than east side renters, thus can manage better without the city’s traditional weekly street cleaning. The west side has far more individual homeowners and taxpayers who historically have carried the burden of tax bonds regularly approved by the majority of renters on the city’s east side. And they get less street cleaning for their money?

But wait, as the annoying voice-over intones in those late night tv infomercials says, there is more:

The wankers at Dept. of Parking and Traffic apparently remain undecided about which other neighborhoods in addition to the Westside prime victims will get half the street cleaning they pay for. There has even been a turf war between DPW and the Dept. of Signs (or whatever the hell it is called) over who gets to put the stickers on the Street Cleaning signs. DPW could have done it more efficiently, but the Signs geniuses won that tug of war, costing the city more for the process of putting up the stickers saying Only Every Other Week (mark your calendars well!) - but the stickers don’t stick very good and cherished O.T. may be required for this folly.

Such intermural city department turf wars are nothing new. I recall growing up near 14th and Vicente and when you walked up the hill to Taraval to catch the L streetcar there was always sand all over the streets, piling up in the gutters and blowing in your eyes with the slightest of winds. The streetcars in those days dropped sand to apparently help the breaks break, don’t ask me why. I asked a city worker why no one cleaned up the annoying sand and was told that DPW said it was the Muni’s responsibility because they dropped the sand, and the Muni said it was DPW’s job because the sand was gathered along the sidewalk — so — Stale-mate! — no one cleaned up the sand.

Back to late nite tv ads, There Is Still More! As the wingnut planners continue to cut costs (some residents who park on the street remain grateful for one less possible street cleaning ticket a month, there is always some good to come from the bad) the same DPW gang is busy sending out the trash can police to REMOVE as many trash cans as they can from the sidewalks. The rationale here appears, absurdly, that people will thereby not put their home garbage in the trash cans, thereby depriving the monopoly garbage collectors from their two pence, a high charge from which the city does not get anywhere near its fair piece for awarding the monopoly contract. (Dare ask Quentin Kopp about this and he will chock in anger and his valued civic life will be imperiled, so don’t raise this sore issue of garbage rates with the dear old peanut.)

An unscientific inspection of some of the remaining trash cans that haven’t been disappeared by DPW zealots shows evidence not of household garbage but of greasy McDonald wrappers, Starbucks cups, bags of doggie poopie and the like that even good citizens are unlikely to carry with them for blocks when there is no trash can to dump such in. So where does it now go? The streets.

In sum: The brainiac who came up with this idea wanted to save money and keep the streets just as clean as when they were dirty. This is city planning at its best. There will be less street sweeping and at the same time fewer trash cans to put the trash into. This is supposed to keep things clean. As Chico Marx said, “Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?”

Letters to the Editor

In response to Mr. Wooding encouraging voters to vote no on prop A:

If the San Francisco General Hospital were to close down, where would Mr. Wooding be taken following a serious accident or injury?

San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) is the only trauma center serving our city, treating over 3,600 critically injured San Franciscans annually. As physicians we know that if we were injured, no other facility in San Francisco could match the expert care we would receive at SFGH. The nearest medical centers offering equivalently

trained staff and specialty surgeons available around the clock are located in Sacramento and Palo Alto.

In these tight financial times, Proposition A offers San Francisco the most affordable means to rebuild our trauma center to new seismic standards. General obligation bonds that would be authorized by prop A have the lowest interest rates, therefore minimizing taxpayer money wasted on interest payments while preserving cash to fund other vital city services. Each year construction is delayed, costs are estimated to rise an additional 40 million dollars.

Cont. p. 6



Reagan Revolution, RIP

By Clint Reilly

In his book, “The Crisis of Global Capitalism,” legendary investor George Soros warned that free markets needed to be supervised by a force more powerful than corporations or they would reel out of control.

Soros was prescient: “I argue that the current state of affairs is unsustainable. Financial markets are inherently unstable and there are social needs that cannot be met by giving market forces free rein.”

Nevertheless, Republicans have preached the virtues of deregulation since Ronald Reagan routed Jimmy Carter in 1980. Moreover, they have demonized government’s role as watchdog of the public interest.

Republicans so successfully undermined the vital importance of good government that they forgot how to govern in a stark emergency like Katrina. They have essentially asserted that unfettered markets would transform the world by seeding democracy and employing the planet into middle class prosperity, while deriding the concept that a powerful arbiter must protect the common good.

A blind promise to lower taxes is the primary Republican domestic platform. Frankly, it’s little more than a bribe that promises the nation prosperity and preeminence without an honest assessment of the money needed to sustain these high standards.

By shrilly opposing spending on vital investments such as education and infrastructure renewal, Reagan’s ideological progeny have unwittingly damaged America’s competitive edge. Today, our schools and vital assets like roads, bridges, airports, ports, transit systems and broadband networks are being trumped by numerous countries throughout the world.

But it gets worse. Now, the taxpayer trillions needed to douse the inferno on Wall Street will accrue interest, which must be paid by our kids. There will be even less capital available for the infrastructure and social needs of the future.

Meanwhile, as they have for decades, Republicans continue to stoke the flames of cultural and religious differences to cover up their total lack of a credible formula for sustainable economic progress.

The GOP’s complete absence of affirmative intellectual leadership on major domestic issues is beginning to

show: Democrats are poised to take the White House, add 15-20 seats to their House majority and possibly reach a supermajority in the Senate.

Americans now see that the Repub-

lican no-new-tax mantra flies in the face of a glaring need for public investment. Like the stubborn owner who refuses to invest in new equipment and worker training, Republicans are bankrupting our country through a lack of vision and bad management.

The present financial crisis presents a moment for sober reflection: What has “hands-off” government wrought?

Huge concentrations of capital cannot be left to their own regulatory devices. The propensity for selfishness is overwhelming. As evidence, the entire global free enterprise system has been inadvertently jeopardized through laissez-faire regulatory policies. The trail of greed is as obvious as pig tracks in the mud. It is precisely because human beings inevitably pursue their own selfish interests that a greater authority is necessary to promote the common good.

Government must protect the public interest. This is precisely the philosophy adopted by Franklin Roosevelt and the Democratic Party, which pulled America out of the Great Depression and into world economic hegemony for the remainder of the 20th century. On domestic issues, the Republican Party since Reagan has been a reactionary institution. The agenda has simply been to peel back the excesses of so-called “Big Government.”

2008 will mark the final passing of that reactionary Republican agenda and its public face – the Reagan Revolution. The simultaneous emergence of the credit crisis and a momentous presidential election forces Americans to evaluate not just two candidates, but also two governing philosophies.

The trillion-dollar bailout marks the end of the line for Ronald Reagan’s bankrupt domestic governing philosophy. Now Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson can rest in peace.

Clint Reilly writes a column which appears as a public service in every MediaNews Group, Inc. each Tuesday as part of the settlement of a 2007 public interest lawsuit filed by Reilly against the Hearst Corporation, and at www.clintreilly.com

AROUND THE TOWN...

Comings and Goings...

We had the wonderful experience of hosting a small “Meet and Greet” event for our columnists at the Que Syrah Wine Bar at 230 West Portal Avenue last month. The weather turned out to be very pleasant and approximately 20 people attended to share stories about the paper and meet each other, as most of what we do is via email. Owner Stephanie McCardell did a great job of keeping the wine and food flowing. A good time was had by all. When you are in the mood for a glass of wine in a great location, check out Que Syrah.

It is fortunate that San Francisco continues to have many vibrant,

active communities within its’ borders, and the community newspapers are a reflection of this. All of us at the Observer value your thoughts and feedback, and we have a very eclectic mix of writers, columnists and other contributors. After all, it is the community that makes a true community newspaper successful.

Unfortunately the Irish Delights store, located on West Portal Ave. has closed its doors. A sign hanging in the window thanks the customers for 22 years of support. Let’s hope the current economy doesn’t claim any more “victims”.

You can reach us at: mitch@WestsideObserver.com. Be sure to check out the Observer online @ www.WestsideObserver.com.

PHYLLIS' FINDINGS

Soon it will be TURKEY TIME and time to indulge big time in all the food that will put on at least five pounds.

Sooner however, will be ELECTION TIME and we'll worry about that first. I can't believe that there'll be a McCain/Palin ticket but the Republicans are carrying on like they have a chance...and I worried a bit about that yesterday when I had a crazy dream. I was married to John McCain in the dream and we were shopping for peaches at a farmer's market. It probably had to do to the fact that the previous day I'd attempted to buy peaches at Safeway and they said they had "no peaches. Will probably have to wait til the come in from Chile." Anyway, in the crazy dream, John McCain and I were arguing with them at the farmer's market that they wanted too much for the peaches! I remember thinking that with all his \$\$\$\$ he shouldn't have to worry about the price of peaches. Wondered what happened to Cindy in the dream. She was no where to be seen...probably had enough Chilean peaches in her eight houses.



It was especially encouraging to hear Colin Powell endorsing Obama on SIXTY MINUTES. Apparently, the endorsement had been in the works for a while, despite a request by President Bush to hold the endorsement back. Powell said Gov Palin wasn't fit for the job and although he was a good friend of John McCain, could not endorse him for president...that he was erratic...and he denied that he was endorsing Obama because they were both black. As a result of the endorsement the Democratis party got a further infusion of funds.

ENTERTAINMENT-From the mundane to the ridiculous...let's talk about some films that I found OK and some not so OK.

You can easily skip DeCaprio and Crowe in BODY OF LIES...lots of shoot-em-up terrorist, lifeless action thriller-type movie

Bill Maher's RELIGOLOUS was better, but not much. Outspoken , irreverent, witty, non-believer Bill travels around the world interviewing Christians, Jews, and Muslims about their beliefs which he views as dangerous nonsense. Some pretty good laughs. It's currently entertaining all non-believers at that house of false idols, Stonestown Cinema.

THE DUCHESS is a portrait of the life of a cosseted, tightly corseted life of Georgiana Spencer, the Duchess of Devonshire. Keira Knightly as the wife and Ralph Fiennes (as her husband) star in an an unhappy triangle (with a live-in mistress). I enjoyed this one very much...well acted, sexy and lively!

The best film around currently is still Woody Allen's VICKY CHRISTINA BARCELONA. a must for film buffs.

Take your kids or grandkids to "BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA" an adorable film...fun for adults too. Also, "W", about the boozing, spoiled son of George H.W. Bush is an authentic, effective, fascinating film by Director Oliver Stone about the Bush years with Josh Brolin as Geo.W .Richard Dreyfus' depiction of Dick Cheney speaks volumes....Don't miss this one...Academy Award potential.

I managed to catch the final performance at the MAGIC THEATER of THE K OF D...An Urban Legend, with Maya Lawson..a young girl who embodies the entire population of a small town to spin the story of young Charlotte McGrew and the summer that inexplicably changed her life. This lone performer plays 18 characters and does it with great panache...an exceptionally talented performance that drew sustained applause. Coming up in November is a new play, EVIE'S Waltz by Carter W. Lewis and directed by Loretta Greco about every parent's nightmare...their son has been expelled for bringing a gun to school. Call the Magic at 415-441-8822 for dates and performances.

For the theater buffs out there....ACT is presenting THE QUALITY OF LIFE, written and directed by Jane Anderson, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 23.. The play is described as a daring, star-studded riveting new tour-de-force, exploring hot-button issues of life and death. Starring Laurie Metcalf, Caroline Lagerfelt, JoBeth Williams, Steven Culp and Dennis Boutsikaris. The play explores what happens when a religious Midwestern couple, Bill and DInah, visit free-spirited cousin, Jeannette and her husband in their Northern California home. Both couples confront loss and survival in the face of explosive circumstance. An unforgettable, brave work of heart and humor. The QUALITY OF LIFE was nominated for four 2007 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards.

Make sure you check out the two new shows coming to the BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATER...August Wilson's memorable JOE TURNERS COME AND GONE begins Oct. 31st and ARABIAN NIGHTS, Nov. 13. Info: 510-647-2949.

P.S. In response to Sara Palin's contention that she can see Russia from her house... across the Bering Strait in Provideniya Bay, sits the town of Providentiya, and Mayor Dimitri Andropov says he can see Sara Palin in the shower..."And it's very nice."

More information that needs to be verified...rumor has it JOE THE PLUMBER is being considered for Secretary of Labor.

A man goes to a shrink and says, "Doctor, my wife is unfaithful to me. Every evening she goes to Larry's bar and picks up men. In fact, she sleeps with anybody who asks her. I'm going crazy. What do you think I should do? " "Relax," says the Doctor. "Take a deep breath and calm down. Now, tell me, exactly, where is Larry's bar?"

ONE NIGHT ONLY," HOYLE AND HOYLE"...Geoff and Dan...at the NOE VALLEY MINISTRY, 23rd & Sanchez Street Saturday, NOVEMBER !.,8:15 PM. This father and son team are the greatest!!!!

Vote... Nov. 4th

Conchita

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California State Assembly

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Paid for by Conchita Applegate for Assembly08. ID# 1306399



PRO & CON:

General Hospital Rebuild Bond

by Mitch Katz, San Francisco public health director

By George Wooding, VP West of Twin Peaks Central Council

San Francisco General Hospital, the city's only trauma center and heart of our health care system, must be rebuilt to meet state seismic standards or close as early as 2013. The fate of General Hospital is something in which we all have a stake. Proposition A represents the most cost-effective way to finance this necessary and worthy civic endeavor.



Prop. A will authorize San Francisco to raise \$887.4 million for a new acute care hospital building with an expanded emergency department and more room for patient care – and without raising your taxes. It's endorsed by the Democratic, Republican and Green parties, the San Francisco Chronicle, Examiner and Bay Guardian newspapers, the Chamber of Commerce, Labor Council, Medical Society and Hospital Council, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Mayor Gavin Newsom and all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors.

The bond measure to rebuild is prudent and broadly supported because of the care that has gone into designing, planning and preparing the new hospital building and the financing program to pay for it. The rounded design – with two stories below ground and seven above – maximizes space for patient treatment and workplace safety, and is based on industry best practices. Pre-construction pricing and regulatory approvals were obtained to avoid cost increases due to delay. Careful scheduling means bonds for the new General Hospital will be issued as bonds for earlier projects are retired, resulting in no net increase in property taxes.

All of San Francisco has a direct interest in the mission of San Francisco General. As the city's only Level One trauma center, General is solely

The City of San Francisco is rapidly losing the trust of the San Francisco Voters.

Ask yourself, when was the last time San Francisco did a good job on a bond measure? How many Laguna Honda Hospital rebuilds do you want to be taxed for?

According to the 6/26/08 Civil Grand Jury report, "Accountability in San Francisco Government," San Francisco's bond measures are averaging between 35% to 67% in cost overruns. The Jury's report documents horrendous City bond oversight, concluding: "The ultimate response to the lack of accountability and oversight is for the voters to demand better governance from City officials. In the meantime, there are no standard operating procedures to hold departments and commissions accountable [for bonds] and, by extension, no accountability by The Board of Supervisors, [the Controller], or the Mayor's office."

The City desperately needs sound financial bond oversight, yet has irresponsibly failed to adopt or apply any of the Civil Grand Jury's bond oversight recommendations that were prepared in anticipation of the SFGH rebuild.

San Francisco charges the voters for steak and we always seem to end up eating hotdogs without a bun. Take a good look at this month's \$198.00 parcel tax increase in your property taxes. Proposition A's \$887.4 million cost is so expensive that San Franciscans can no longer afford to indulge the City's "business as usual" cost overruns on bond projects.

The City has had 14 years to plan the SFGH rebuild and has waited until the absolute last moment to present the SFGH rebuild to the public. San Francisco is falsely claiming that SFGH will

Cont. p. 4

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Pro: Prop A (Cont. from p. 3)
prepared to respond to traumatic injury and multi-casualty accidents and other incidents, such as that which the city will face in the next major earthquake. It also delivers state-of-the art medical care to all, regardless of station in life, keeping faith with the values of our city's namesake, Saint Francis of Assisi.

Staffed with physicians, surgeons and nurses affiliated with University of California San Francisco Medical School, General Hospital annually treats more than 100,000 people, receives more than 51,000 emergency room visits, including 29 percent of all ambulance traffic, performs more than 6,600 operations and delivers more than 1,200 babies. For more than a century, it has stood ready to respond to epidemic, most recently in the early 1980s when San Francisco General established the nation's first AIDS ward. Through its partnership with UCSF Medical School, General Hospital is the training ground for new generations of medical professionals and a fount of research for the advancement of medicine. It simply must be maintained and kept open for the good of all San Franciscans and beyond.

Critics have suggested there are other sources of money to pay for the rebuild. There are not. In fact, the general obligation bonds that would be authorized by Prop. A are the least expensive form of financing. Other financing mechanisms would bleed resources from vital public services such as police, fire and parks. Others have suggested the current hospital could be retrofitted to meet seismic standards – but such a course would cost at least as much money and would result in less space for patient care while creating new obstacles to adapting to future medical technologies. Still others have suggested the city could build a cheaper hospital. But the proposed building was designed based on current and future patient demand and industry best practices. What's more, delay begets cost increases – and threatens the very future of General Hospital.

The experiences of Californians elsewhere tell us the existence of public hospitals such as San Francisco General is not assured. Within the past 15 years, Sonoma, Fresno and Merced counties lost their public hospitals. Today, public hospitals operate in only 16 of 58 California counties. Generally, these hospitals were lost because of an inability or unwillingness of communities to support them at crucial points in their existence. We are at one of those crossroads in San Francisco.

To make the point, our campaign to pass Proposition A has introduce San Franciscans to people like rookie police officer Nick Ferrando, whose life was saved after a horrific traffic accident while responding to a crime scene, people like firefighter Dan Casey, who spent 13 days in General's Intensive Care Unit, 10 days of it on life-support, after suffering smoke inhalation while responding to a warehouse fire, and people like school board Commissioner Norman Yee, who had his neck broken by a red-light runner while crossing a street and was put back together by the neurosurgeons at San Francisco General. If you or one of your loved ones suffers traumatic injury, you are going to want General Hospital standing ready.

The doctors and nurses of General Hospital save lives everyday. It is time for San Franciscans to save San Francisco General by voting Yes on Proposition A.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS TIP?

The West of Twin Peaks Observer needs to know! or
e-mail:
editor@westsideobserver.com



Con: Prop A (Cont. from p. 3)
not be rebuilt if the voters fail to pass Proposition A. This claim by the City is an emotional, scare tactic designed to trick voters. SFGH will NOT be closing if Proposition A is not passed. A new law, SB306 will allow San Francisco to complete SFGH by 2020. Responsible City's such as San Mateo finished the seismic retrofit of their hospital by 2002.

Many of Proposition A's current design problems and cost overruns could have been avoided if San Francisco had been more responsible to its voters

What was the Department of Public Health (DPH) thinking when they spent \$30 million planning Proposition A?

Construction is supposed to cost \$887.4 million. By the City's own admission construction may actually cost \$943 million. This \$55.6 million increase is open ended.

Furniture, fixtures and equipment (FFE) are supposed to cost \$75 million. In 2006, Anshen and Allen's SFGH feasibility study predicted that FFE would cost between \$157 million and \$234 million. It's interesting to note that the price of medical equipment has dropped so dramatically, while the costs of everything else continues to rise.

The debt service on the bond is predicted to be \$640 million. The sub-prime mortgage melt-down is paralyzing municipal government financing. San Francisco may face unprecedented delays in selling Proposition A bonds since the market for bonds has dried up. If the current economy conditions persist, the real story may simply be that the City will not be able to find buyer for it's bonds. Incredibly, there is no cap on Proposition A's bond interest rate and the bonds debt service may be underestimated by at least \$100 million or more. Bond interest rates will certainly increase and debt service will skyrocket.

The recent history of inflation for California hospital construction between 2003 – 2006 of 18.5% should also make voters wonder why the SFGH rebuild is planning for only 7% annual cost increases.

Cost estimates to rebuild the hospital have already increased by 30% or \$265.4 million in just two years. In 2006, San Francisco was planning to build a rectangular hospital for \$622 million. The hospital being presented to the voters now is an oval, glass-walled structure featuring private rooms and \$7 million worth of artwork. The less expensive rectangular hospital would have worked just as well, but may not have looked as nice. Just like the voters, San Francisco needs to start tightening its belt.

The City will also be spending hundreds of millions retrofitting the non-seismically retrofitted red brick buildings on the SFGH campus. Unfortunately, the new hospital will be located in the fall-zone of two of these antiquated buildings. San Francisco admits that the red brick buildings need to be retrofitted, but has arbitrarily decided not to retrofit the buildings until sometime after 2015. Voters can only wonder why the City is willing to risk the safety of the new \$1.6 billion dollar hospital that we will be paying for over the next 23 years. Common sense dictates that he red brick buildings need to be retrofitted before the hospital is built, not after.

San Francisco needs to create an independent body, staffed by professionals dedicated to responsible bond planning and management. Voters can no longer trust the City to monitor themselves.

The City should also give the taxpayer a break by applying the available Tobacco Settlement Revenue (TSR) to the cost of the SFGH rebuild. By 2015, San Francisco will have earned \$257.4 million in TSR funds. The City has already appropriated \$148 million in TSR funds to finance replacing Laguna Honda Hospital, leaving the City with \$109 million in TSR funds it could apply to rebuilding SFGH. The funds would help lower the cost of the SFGH rebuild to the voter. The City has never stated what they are going to use the TSR money for.

The City government has to do a better job representing the interests of the voters. Promises to voters must be kept, and voter's tax dollars must be spent wisely and intelligently. San Francisco voters are kind-hearted and giving, but we can't afford to see the City waste our tax dollars on another failed bond project. Let's wait and fix Proposition A's bond problems that the City's irresponsibility to the voters has created. Before voting, ask yourself if you believe that the City has been responsible with the taxes they are currently spending. Without responsible governance and the required changes to the Proposition A bond: Vote No on Proposition A!

VOTE YES ON A AND SAVE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Help save the City's busiest emergency room and its only trauma center—
without raising taxes.



www.SaveSFGeneral.com



Paid for by the Committee to Rebuild General Hospital, Yes on Prop. A, a coalition of doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, SEIU Local 1021 Issues PAC and the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.

The West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC) meeting on Monday, October 27th was a spirited affair that ended up being focused mainly on city planning issues as San Francisco Planning Commissioner Mike Antonini gave an update on projects being considered by the Planning Department, as well as answering questions from the audience of approximately 30. Later, two of the three candidates vying for District 7 Supervisor addressed the group.

WOTPCC President Don Dutil opened the meeting be welcoming people and, after the approval of minutes, and the treasurers report moved into the guest speaker portion. As there was no representative from the SFPD present, the Police Report for the month was skipped. Dutil then introduced Planning Commissioner Antonini who proceeded to give an extensive overview of the current projects under consideration by the planning commission.

Antonini started his report by addressing the work that is being conducted on the 2009 Housing Element Document. This documents defines the “general plan” for housing in the city and is used by the city government to incorporate the feedback of the citizens into project planning and approval.

The commissioner stressed how important it is for the citizens to research the draft document and ensure that their true wishes are incorporated into the final document.

(As a sideline, it was mentioned that Matt Chamberlain is serving as a citizen representative on the Community Advisory Body that is contributing to the 2009 Housing Element and has compiled extensive notes on the meetings. His notes can be found on the WOTPCC website at www.WestOfTwinPeaks.org). Judith Berkowitz also spoke about her experience on the CAB, and mentioned that the group has had their meetings behind closed doors, as the city feels there could be too many people attending in a public forum.

She stated that the next meeting for the CAB would be held on Wednesday, November 5th at 9:00 AM at the Planning offices located at 1650 Mission Street, in the Conference Room in Room 431. The public is allowed to attend.

Commissioner Antonini then addressed projects such as the redevelopment of the Eastern Neighborhoods, which encompasses approximately 20% of SF land. The project was submitted to the Planning Department, but with possible extensive changes being made to the project, it will have to be re-submitted to the department; the PUC rebuild of the Hetch Hetchy water delivery system, and a Whole Foods mixed use project near Kezar at Haight and Stanyan are in the process before the Planning Commission.

Antonini went on to discuss the role of the Planning Commission, and how they can impact general planning by enacting planning measures such as the “Formula Retail Ban” where cookie-cutter, “chain” stores are banned in certain areas to better protect the smaller, independent merchants.

Projects that are important to the WOTPCC community and other Westside residents were also discussed. Antonini noted that Supervisor Sean Elsbernd has proposed legislation that would create a process to examine the “Cumulative Effect” of projects to possibly better examine the environmental impact of multiple projects instead of looking at each project as an individual entity. Several speakers in the audience felt that this cumulative effect would make it easier for developers, but the final document is not yet completed. The project at 2400 Sloat Blvd. (John’s Ocean Beach Café / Robert’s Motel) was also discussed as Antonini said that the developer is making changes to the original plan, and a restyled project is slated for submittal to the Planning Commission in the next several weeks.

Other projects discussed were the Muni/BART Balboa Park station changes; and the Ardenwood project; as well as planned development at Hunter’s Point, Treasure Island, and the Transbay terminal project.

Questions from the audience concerned the definitions of “Affordable Housing”, “Inclusionary Housing”, and the possibility of the 19th Avenue corridor being designated as a “Priority Development Area”, which raised the specter of a project that would greatly increase density, reduce parking, and focus on mass transit options.

Following the summary and Q&A time with Antonini, Dutil introduced two candidates who are running for the District 7 Supervisor position that is currently held by Elsbernd.

Julian Lagos and Billy Bob Whitmer share similar backgrounds. Both are non-party aligned, running as independent’s. The candidates are both against the



Planning Commissioner Mike Antonini addressed the problems of overdevelopment in the area

types of development that are being considered at Park Merced, Stonetown and on Brotherhood Way, and both stated that they feel the incumbent (Elsbernd) is too pro-development. Whitmer went on so explain that the big issue is that the city government has little or no accountability for its’ financial spending and planning. Lagos stated that his campaign is gaining support and that he represents the working people in SF.

To be fair, Supervisor Elsbernd was not present due to a prior commitment, and could not reply to the claims of the two candidates.

With many development projects currently in the planning and review process, it is important to become more familiar with the scope and ramifications of each of the projects. We will cover more information in future issues of the Observer.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will occur on Monday, November 24th at the Forest Hills Community Club House at 7:30 PM.

Sister Miriam Retires from Laguna Honda

When I first walked into Laguna Honda Hospital in 1981, twenty-seven years ago, I knew I had found my calling to provide pastoral care services to my fellow San Franciscans.

Then, I never considered I would one day retire.

It has been my privilege to have served San Francisco for nearly thirty years, but I have decided I must retire this December.

Laguna Honda is graciously celebrating my retirement on December 7 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in Laguna Honda’s third floor library. A presentation is scheduled at 2:00 p.m.

I hope you will join me as I celebrate the years I have devoted to Laguna Honda. I’d like to tell you how much I have enjoyed helping and supporting people, and advocating for their care. I especially want to thank people who voted in 1999 to approve rebuilding Laguna Honda to care for our elderly.

And I’d like to thank each of you for helping expand volunteer and pastoral programs at Laguna Honda. Residents will need your continued support after I retire.

I hope to see you December 7. Please stop by.
Sister Miriam Walsh, Laguna Honda Hospital Pastoral Care Director, Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart







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Villa d’Este Restaurant Celebrates 30 years

By Jonathan Farrell

Ramon Oropeza loves his restaurant Villa d’Este which has been a long-standing part of the Lakeside Village area on Ocean Ave. "I never thought I would be in business this many years," he said

This October, Villa d’Este celebrated its 30th Anniversary.

Built in the 1920’s, before Oropeza took over, it had been a pie restaurant. Native San Franciscan Leanna Mossi confirmed. "Yes, it was a pie restaurant, but even then as now it was a place where the neighborhood liked to be," she said.

Upon ownership in 1978, Oropeza envisioned an Italian Restaurant, specializing in the cuisine of Northern Italy. "I named the restaurant after the famous Villa at Tivoli because when I visited Italy many years ago, the place inspired me with its beauty," he said.

Oropeza was proud to say that he raised all of his children while working

at Villa d’Este and that "I sent all of them to college," he said. "Now, my grandchildren, Eddie, Armando, Angelica, Erica, Ashley and Pricilla work here," said Oropeza.

"Villa d’Este is one of the last neighborhood restaurants," said local tour guide Joe Reis. "Not very many of them around any more," he said.

Reis surmised that was most of the appeal to patrons and a reason for enduring. "Villa d’Este, with its Art Deco-style interior offers a sense of tradition, with its hospitality and service," said Mossi.

Able to seat 150, Villa d’Este at 2623 Ocean Ave is open for lunch and dinner as well as brunch on Sundays, including holidays. The chef, José Barjas and bartender Jim Pritchard have been with Villa d’Este since it began.

Anniversary party was on Oct. 1. Singer Kathy Holly with pianist David Baioni will performed, as they frequently do on weekends, Dinner starts at 6PM. For details call 415-334-0580;



We loved them ! The 2nd Annual Taraval Street Fair and Pumpkin Festival was a real success. Thronged with neighbors and their families and a great time to meet and talk to neighbors. The West Portal Merchant’s Holloween Festival is shown in the two pictures below.



Tony Hall Hearing (Cont. from p. 1)

him in cash, which was the only terms under which Cudden would accept employment.

Frank Gallagher, media relations consultant, testified that he had worked with Scanlon on the Hall for Supervisor campaign in 2003 and that the checks from the campaign funds were for work Scanlon had done as Volunteer Coordinator and for her work raising funds for the campaign. He had “no doubt” that Ms. Scanlon was paid \$12,000 for services she had performed with the Irish-American community, and especially for her help with contractors. He further testified that the gas and food charges were for bone fide campaign expenses.

Eamon J. Murphy, construction contractor, testified that Scanlon solicited campaign funds from him for the newly-appointed Sean Elsbernd when he visited him in his offices in City Hall.

Peter Bagatelos, Hall’s campaign attorney, testified that he had advised Hall about the use of gas and meals for the campaign, and that there should have been a proper accounting for each expenditure, but that those kind of expenses are not usually subject to charges, and amounted to “de minimis” errors. He said that the single expenditure, the charge for purses for his wife and daughters at a Virginia City leather shop, happened when Hall mistakenly used the wrong credit card.

He advised Hall to repay the \$320 to the campaign and to apologize for the error and offered to settle the gaff with Ethics with a small fine. His efforts to settle the minor problems did not meet with any response from Richard Mo, the officer in charge of the complaint, he said. Bagatelos charged that Mo had prejudged Hall’s behavior before the investigation began, because Mo told him early on “Hall lied about expenditures and had intimidated witnesses.”

When Olivia Scanlon was called as a witness, she appeared in the hearing room, but her lawyer, Edward Swanson, of Swanson, McNamara and Haller, a firm specializing in criminal defense, appeared on her behalf and invoked the 5th Amendment against self-incrimination, stating that, since criminal charges had been filed, she reserved her right to remain silent.

The commission is scheduled to make a determination on the facts and the law at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ethics Commission on December 8th. Contractor

“The case against Tony Hall has been politically motivated from the beginning and the fact that the woman making these allegations in the first place had to take the Fifth today to avoid perjuring herself even further in this matter bears out the absurdity of the charges against him,” David Waggoner, an attorney for Hall, said after the hearing.

Letters (Cont. from p. 2)

In these tight financial times, Proposition A offers San Francisco the most affordable means to rebuild our trauma center to new seismic standards. General obligation bonds that would be authorized by prop A have the lowest interest rates, therefore minimizing taxpayer money wasted on interest payments while preserving cash to fund other vital city services. Each year construction is delayed, costs are estimated to rise an additional 40 million

dollars.

San Francisco General needs to be rebuilt if it is to continue to serve every city resident as it has for the past 140 years. More than 66% of voters need to approve proposition A. Join us in voting yes!

Joseph Hernandez MD, PhD
Monica Kwan MD
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Spotlight on: SUNSET PET SUPPLY

by Mitch Bull

Walking on the 2200 block of Taraval Street, you first see a sidewalk sign with a chalk message advising you to “Have a Great Day”. This cheery welcome is the first sign that Sunset Pet Supply is a different kind of retail store.

Once inside, the store is overflowing with a wide selection of pet foods, toys, furniture and other accessories. While it may look typical, it isn’t. Co-owners Sanford Johnson and Kimberly Leshar have succeeded in doing what every retail store should strive to achieve- give customer focused service and sell great products in a fun, holistically-based environment.

Johnson and Leshar recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of opening the store, although it kind of started by accident. “Kimberly and I were partners in a dog walking service (Pro Dogwalkers) and when we found out that the store (Petcenter) was closing, we thought, let’s try running a store, it shouldn’t be too difficult”, says Johnson, who added, “we underestimated the degree of difficulty, but we are fortunate to be in a great neighborhood where the customers are focused on value and service and we believe the store offers products and services that provide a real value to our customers.”

While there are many reasons to shop at Sunset Pet Supply, a big difference between them and other retailers is the degree of caring and the focus on quality that the owners and staff undertake in selecting the pet food and products for the shelves. “We’ve decided to carry products by small regional manufacturers that are US based and incorporate more natural products with natural preservatives. The shelf life is less, so we have to be much more aware of our selling cycle as to not have spoilage in the products.

By handling these smaller brands, we can better control quality, and with pet foods this is very important. If the product isn’t good enough to feed to our own pets, we will not stock it” said Johnson.

One only has to look at the recent pet food recall where products were tainted with Chinese-based industrial chemicals and caused a worldwide panic among pet owners, recalled products, and the death of dozens of animals to see where small batch quality control is important.

Their philosophy on natural products extends to all of the products they carry. Their pet toys are also made from natural ingredients, like rubber, instead of PVC, and are also kid safe because when pets leave toys around it is not uncommon for the children to also play with them. SPS also stocks biodegradable dog poop bags (not packaged in a plastic enclosure), organic catnip, and handmade toys for cats and dogs that are made by a local SF vendor. The philosophy of buying locally extends to other things, “It took us 4-5 months to find quality cat furniture that was not imported, made of natural ingredients, and not



containing industrial chemicals like melamine and formaldehyde.

Indeed, Johnson and Leshar have taken the practice of integrating environmentally friendly products to a level not readily seen in retail stores. “Everything on our shelves is the result of a conscious decision based on the needs of our customers, our holistic beliefs, and to really focus on the health and welfare of our customers and animal clients.

Observing the customer experience at Sunset Pet, it appears to be a happy experience for all. Music wafts throughout the store and each and every visitor is greeting more like an old friend than a customer. The staff members also seem to get along well in the friendly and relaxed atmosphere. By the way, bring your pet, as the store is extremely pet friendly.

Community Involvement is also the rule of thumb at the store. They have participated in the recent Outlands Music Festival in GG Park, the Pet Pride festivities, and last week’s Taraval Street Fair.

The owners and staff are currently working with the SF Homeless Youth Alliance to collect jackets, blankets, sweaters, socks and sleeping bags to help homeless kids get through the upcoming winter season. If you have items to donate they can be dropped off at the store.

With great products, a friendly atmosphere, and experienced, trained staff members who can answer all of your pet related questions, Sunset Pet Supply should be your first choice when looking for products that support your pet in the very best way. The store is located at 2226 Taraval Street, between 32nd and 33rd Avenue, and is open Monday through Friday from 10 am – 7 pm, Saturday from 9:30 am – 6:30 pm, and from Sunday from 11 am -6 pm. You can reach them at 415-661-4236 or on the web at www.sunsetpetsupply.com.

Coming up in future issues: Just Because Cards and Gifts and Massage Envy

Kopp (Cont. from p. 1) includes \$1,500,000,000 for high speed rail. No state has achieved California’s status regarding high speed rail development for an eventual system extending to San Diego in the south and Sacramento in the north at an additional cost of approximately \$12,000,000,000. California voters possess the power now to ensure federal and private funding by establishing the financial underpinning of Proposition 1A.

While opposition to Proposition 1A appears scattered and idiosyncratic, present-day vicissitudes in financial markets 3,000 or more miles from California cause some professional naysayers and even a few self-appointed journalistic sages to question affordability of Proposition 1A. A few iconoclastic critics, even in good faith and without the ideologue tenor of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (which succeeded in subverting the public’s best chance of reforming governmental eminent domain powers in last June’s statewide election) have expressed concern over whether the State’s general fund can sustain repayment of bond holder investments in the Proposition 1A bond measure. To that concern, State Legislative Analyst Liz Hill and Treasurer Bill Lockyer conclude that Proposition 1A would not exceed the State’s debt-service limitations under generally accepted public accounting practices that allow a maximum 6.5% of the State’s general fund expenditures for annual bond payments. The so-called debt-service ratio currently stands at 4.4% for infrastructure bonds like Proposition 1A and is expected to increase to a maximum 6.2% in 2011-2012 as currently authorized bonds and the Proposition 1A bonds are sold. Therefore, California can afford Proposition 1A.

Secondly, and equally as important, at a time of economic need Proposition 1A represents the very best governmental policy to invigorate the economy. The California High Speed Rail Project will create approximately 160,000 construction-related jobs and about 450,000-460,000 permanent new jobs thereafter. The multiplier effect upon the economy will be prolific. History so teaches us, not just nationally in terms of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s 1933 establishment of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dams, the Tennessee Valley Authority and similar public structure projects establishing employment for hundreds

of thousands of Americans. Commentators and economists dubbed such projects “priming the pump”, as in giving life and energy to the economy. So, too, our forbearers in the Bay Area acted boldly and no differently. Reflect upon the fact that construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, based upon general obligation bonds supported by the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Del Norte and, of course, San Francisco, began in 1933 and culminated with the bridge opening in 1937. In that era of the same 1929 Wall Street collapse and later economic depression, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge was built. Think too about the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) in November 1962 when a \$792,000,000 general obligation bond was approved by 60% and more of voters in Contra Costa, Alameda and San Francisco Counties. Those projects all confronted skeptical critics, plus the inevitable self-appointed experts who claim knowledge superior to recognized professionals. Yet the people of San Francisco, the Bay Area and Northern California persisted. Consider for a moment our transportation predicament if BART had not been built. Some 46 years later Santa Clara County clamors for inclusion and extension of BART to San Jose. It’s axiomatic that every year of high speed rail delay produces an additional \$1,000,000,000 cost. An October 2008 study sponsored by the Bay Area Council forecasts 55,000 high speed rail project-construction related jobs in the Bay Area alone. The proper question is: can we afford NOT to build high speed rail?

Additionally, the project contributes mightily to California’s legally-required mandate to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 25% in 12 years, by 50% in 22 years, pursuant to 2007’s Assembly Bill No. 32, enthusiastically signed by the Governor for good environmental reasons. High speed rail operates electrically, eliminating about 12,700,000,000 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually, using one-third the energy of air travel, one-fifth the energy of automobile travel and reducing foreign oil imports by 22,000,000 barrels per year. That’s a reason the Sierra Club, San Francisco Tomorrow, San Francisco League of Conservation Voters, California League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Endangered Habitats League and Greenbelt Alliance, among others, support Proposition 1A.

Demographers predict California’s population

in 2030 will comprise approximately 50,000,000 people. To absorb the transportation demands that high speed rail will satisfy by 65,000,000-105,000,000 rides annually, would require building 3,000 new freeway lane miles, 91 new airport gates and five new runways at a cost of two-three times the high speed rail project, which will remove nearly 70,000,000 passenger trips from our highways each year and attract millions of airline passengers, thus reducing airport delays. The economic benefits of the project constitute one reason for the support from the Greater San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Area Council, the Redwood City-San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the North Bay Leadership Council, the Orange County Business Council, the California Alliance for Jobs, the California Labor Federation, the California Nurses Association, the San Francisco Labor Council, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, the California Professional Engineers in Government, the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the California Transportation Commission, the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the North Coast Railroad Authority, the League of Women Voters, San Francisco Planning & Urban Research, the American Lung Association, California Federation of Teachers and the Kern County Taxpayers Association and Sacramento City Taxpayers’ Rights League, together with federal, state and local elected officials from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein to the mayors of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Fresno, San Jose, San Diego, Bakersfield and political organizations such as the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee and the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee. Forty years from now our descendants will thank us for finally producing a high speed rail system like those in 11 other nations, starting with Japan for the 1964 Olympic Games. Like California’s Argonauts of the 19th Century, our cry for Proposition 1A is “Excelsior.” Vote accordingly.



November 2008

Calendar

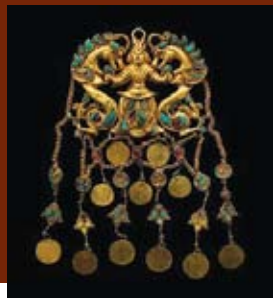
Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

October 24, 2008– January 25, 2009

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin St. SF

581-3100



Extraordinary artifacts uncovered in modern-day Afghanistan, long thought stolen or destroyed during some twenty-five years of conflict until the dramatic announcement of their existence in 2003, make their only West Coast appearance on their United States tour at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, October 24, 2008, through January 25, 2009. Revealing the multicultural heritage of Afghanistan—once the heart of the Silk Road linking cultures from Asia to the Mediterranean—are some 228 objects ranging

in date from 2200 BCE to the second century CE. The artworks are mainly drawn from three archaeological sites, together with a few earlier works providing background. These artworks which belong to the National Museum, Kabul, include fragmentary gold bowls with artistic links to the cultures of ancient Mesopotamia (largely present-day Iraq) and the Indus valley (largely present-day Pakistan) from the Bronze Age site of Tepe Fullol; bronze and stone sculptures and a gilded silver plaque from the former

Greek colony at Ai Khanum (“Lady Moon”); bronzes, ivories, and painted glassware that had been imported from Roman Egypt, China, and India, and excavated from ancient storerooms discovered in the 1930s and 1940s in Begram; and more than one hundred gold ornaments from the “Bactrian Hoard,” found in 1978 in Tillya Tepe, the site of six nomad graves, which reveal a synthesis of Greek, Roman, Persian, Indian, Chinese, and Siberian styles.

FLU SHOTS- IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Sat. 11/1–30 | FLU SHOT INFO: Dial 2-1-1 to get information about Bay Area flu-shot locations, times and fees.

FREE WALKING TOURS-SF CITY GUIDES

Sat. 11/1-Daily, 10am | Informative glimpses into SF history in 2 hours or less. Free walking tours every day, year-round (except Holidays). SF Main Library, 101 Larkin St. www.sfcityguides.org

PUBLIC JAM

Sat. 11/1, 12-5pm | Bring your own fresh fruit and clean jars and learn to make jam with the Fallen Fruit collective. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Galleries, 701 Mission St. 978-2787

BOSS OF THE SAUCE

Sun. 11/2, 12–5pm | 2nd Annual Red Pasta Sauce Competition, public is invited to judge sauces. Bay area Chefs compete. SS Peter & Paul Church, Washington Sq. North Beach \$20. 989-2220

FACULTY RECITAL/PAUL HERSH, PIANO

Mon. 11/3, 8pm |All Dvorak program including “Bagatelles,” also features other faculty and students. SF Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St. \$20. 503-6725

CHAMBER MUSIC

Wed. 11/5 and 7, Noon | The SOTA Piano Department presents Chamber Music, Rm 226, School of the Arts, 555 Portola. Free Parking. Info-tickets 695-5720 or www.sfsotaq-ptsa.org

SHARING NIGHT AT CHOU CHOU

Thu. 11/6 Every 1st Thurs. | Bring your favorite wine,

there is no cork fee every first Thursday of the month. Chou Chou Restaurant-French-Bistro Patisserie 400 Dewey Blvd. Reservations suggested: 242-0960

FRIDAY NIGHT JAZZ AT THE CLIFF HOUSE

Fri. 7:pm, 11/7 John Kalleen, 11/14 Kurt Ribek, 11/21 David Costa, 11/28 Mark Sowlakis | Friday Night Jazz in the Balcony Lounge. Cliff House, 1 Seal Rock, Info: 386-3330

RED TIE GALA

Fri. 11/7, 7pm | Biennial event benefiting the Little Sisters of the Poor-St. Anne’s Home, Rotunda, Neiman Marcus, 150 Stockton St. 362-4777 \$250

FIRST ANNUAL FABULOUS FOOD FESTIVAL

Sat. 11/8–9, 10am–7pm | Concourse Exhibition Ctr. 635 8th St. 120 Exhibitors, many with free samples and goods for purchase.\$10 per person. 388-7208, www.pacificexpositions.com

THE CRUCIBLE BY ARTHUR MILLER

Thu. 11/13, 14, 15, 7:30 pm Matinee: Sun/16, 2pm | School Play. The Carol Channing Theatre at Lowell High School 1101 Eucalyptus Drive (at Forest View) Info: 415-759-2730 x3062. \$8 at the door.

SOTA DRAMA STUDIO

Fri. 11/14, 4:30pm |The SOTA Theatre Department Works by the Advanced Playwriting class. School of the Arts, 555 Portola. Free Parking. Info-tickets 695-5720 or www.sfsotaq-ptsa.org

GUITARIST EDUARDO FERNANDEZ

Fri. 11/14 8pm | Performing Fernando Sor, Manuel Ponce and Alberto Ginastera. Herbst Theater. \$42/32.

392-4400

A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

Sun. 11/16, 4pm | A fresh take on the works of Rogers and Hammerstein, a fundraising event for SOTA performers. Tickets \$30-50. Preshow reception at 2pm. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. Info-tickets 695-5720 or www.sfsotaq-ptsa.org

AUTHOR JANIS BELL

Wed. 11/17, 7pm | An evening with Janis Bell, author of Clean Well Lighted Sentences. West Portal Books, 80 West Portal Ave.

TARAVAL POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

Tues. 11/18, 7pm Talk to Captain Chignell about public safety and community issues. 2345-24th Ave.

IRREPLACEABLE WILDLIFE

Tues. 11/18, 6pm | Irreplaceable Wildlife in a Warming World. Susan Middleton, renowned wildlife and endangered species photographer. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. Free.

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

Thu.–Sat. 11/20-22, 7:30pm, and Sat. Mat. 2pm | The Academy of Arts and Sciences presents The Phantom Tollbooth, Main Stage, School of the Arts, 555 Portola. Free Parking. Info-tickets 695-5720 or www.sfsotaq-ptsa.org

BAND CONCERT

Fri. 12/5, 7pm| The Carol Channing Theatre at Lowell High School 1101 Eucalyptus Drive 759-2730 x3062. Suggested Donation \$10 per family.

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221 Christopher Dr	2	2	2	1,245	10/15/08	\$785,000
204 Panorama Dr	2	1	2	1,026	07/17/08	\$755,000
166 Glenview Dr	3	1	2	N/A	10/17/08	\$800,000
10 Skyview Way	3	2	2	1,275	07/28/08	\$818,000
172 Marview Way	3	1	2	N/A	09/05/08	\$850,000
33 Olympia Way	3	2	4	1,275	07/31/08	\$875,000

source: sfmls

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APPALOOSA

Ed Harris: Virgil Cole (hired as marshal of a New Mexico hamlet by townsman Timothy Spaal to end the reign of cold-blooded killer, rancher Randall Bragg; Jeremy Irons) also directs with a touch of humor, co-produces and co-writes this western, even sings a song during the end credits. His deputy, Everett Hitch: Viggo Mortensen, travels with him everywhere. Allison, a genteel lady (Renee Zellweger) arrives in town and plays folk tunes on piano at the local saloon. There is every reason to believe Virgil swings both ways. Too much time is spent waiting for something to happen; the occasional shootout enlivens activities. Language, violence. New Line 114 min.

BLINDNESS

A sudden outbreak of white blindness spreads across a U.S. city, attacking Duncan (Mark Ruffalo) but not his wife, (Julianne Moore). All the blind are thrown into detention centers. The Man with the Black Eye Patch (Danny Glover) and others must protect themselves from the evil King of Ward 3 (Gael Garcia Bernal) who has seized all the food and ransoms it first for valuables then for sex. It isn't long before the blind display filthy and vicious, selfish and violent behavior; viewers cannot help but react to the repellant and very disturbing environment. Director Fernando Meirelles filmed in Canada, Brazil and Uruguay. Language, action violence. DreamWorks/Miramax 120 min.

BODY OF LIES

Roger Ferris (Leonardo DiCaprio) plays an undercover C.I.A. agent in the Middle East trying to find who's behind the deadly bombs exploding around the world. Ed Hoffman, a chubby suburban dad (Russell Crowe) working at home in the D.C. burbs via a hands-free cell-phone while attending his kid's soccer game, casually makes life-and-death/torture decisions re his worldwide field operatives. Some answers come from Hani (Mark Strong), the head of Jordanian intelligence, but there's too much

of a muddle with frequently flashed geographic names to identify the locales with single vehicles stirring up dust clouds on desert roads. Ferris and Hoffman actually have three face-to-face meetings during this meandering. Directed/co-produced by Ridley Scott and written without much conviction by William Monahan. Syriana was more compelling. Language, graphic violence. Warner Bros. 126 min.

EAGLE EYE

Shia LeBeouf and Michelle Monaghan both receive mysterious foreboding calls on their cell phones. The female voice gives them seconds to make decisions that will involve explosions, car crashes, the fate of loved ones. Thrown together to save their own lives, they try to outwit the unseen all-knowing technology-assisted protags. Their appointments keep them on the go in fast action sequences throughout the Eastern U.S. in this brilliantly edited techno-thriller. Language, action violence. DreamWorks/ Columbia 108 min.

MAX PAYNE

Mark Wahlberg in the title role is a DEA agent whose family was killed. He joins with Mona: Mila Kunis, a vengeful sister, to bring down those in NYC responsible for the drug enhancing Valkyr. His wife's boss, Jason: Chris O'Donnell, is forced to reveal what he knows. The Aesir Pharmaceuticals execs, B.B.: Beau Bridges and Nicole: Kate Burton, are more involved than they want to admit. Based on a video game, directed with flair by John Moore and written by Beau Thorne. Some sexuality, drug use, extreme violence. 20th Century Fox 99 min.

MIRACLE OF ST. ANNA

Director Spike Lee, convinced that Blacks haven't been receiving enough screen-time in recent war films, has concentrated his James McBride (novel and screenplay) tale in Tuscany with a black battalion misplacing four of its soldiers behind enemy lines in 1944.

The foursome are portrayed by Derek Luke: 2nd Staff Sgt. Aubrey; Michael Ealy: Sgt. Bishop; Laz Alonso: Corp. Hector; and Pvt. 1st Class Sam: Omar Benson Miller. As they befriend the townspeople who hide and feed them, everyone gets acquainted. There's the wrap-around story of a shooting in a post office with Joseph Gordon-Levitt as reporter Tim Boyle and John Leguizamo as Enrico. Touchstone 160 min.

NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST

Nick (Michael Cera: Juno) compiles CDs of music specially for his love, Tris (Alexis Dziena), who has little interest in him until her bgf Norah (Kat Dennings: The House Bunny) realizes she and Nick have the same music tastes. Director Peter Sollett presents one night with New Jersey teenagers falling in and out of love in Manhattan. Lots of laughs. Teen drinking, sexuality, language, crude behavior. Columbia 90 min.

The title is a combination of the words 'religious' and 'ridiculous'. Religulous is directed by Larry (Borat, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Seinfeld) Charles, and written by Bill Maher who takes short, quick stabs at all religions, moving on too fast. Maher interviews a broad range of religious leaders and followers around the globe, visiting Scientologists, Protestants in the U.S. Bible Belt, Mormons in Salt Lake City, and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, plus other locations. He attacks Christianity but is softer on Islam. A garrulous rabbi who won't let Maher get a word in steals the show. Some sexuality, drug use. Lionsgate/Thousand Words 101 min.

W.

Geo. W. Bush (Josh Brolin) meets Laura (Elizabeth Banks) at a barbeque. Barbara Bush (Ellen Burstyn) tries to



keep hubby, Geo. H.W. Bush/Poppy (James Cromwell) under control. Barbara to W: "You're loud and you've got a short fuse." The inner circle members include Dick Cheney (Richard Dreyfuss) , Karl Rove (Toby [infamous as Capote] Jones), Condoleeza (Thandie Newton), Rumsfeld (Scott Glenn), and Colin Powell (Jeffrey Wright), plus there's Tony Blair (Ioan Gruffudd). Born again religious leader, Earle Hudd: Stacy Keach influences W. The performances that especially deserve Oscar nods are Brolin, Cromwell and Wright. Directed by Oliver Stone and written by Stanley Weiser, they present a hard-drinking, foul-mouthed Bush who can't hold a job, warts and all so viewers will probably have their earlier opinion reinforced. Language, alcohol abuse, smoking, war images. Lionsgate 129 min.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED

Movie studio politics for two weeks in the life of veteran producer, Ben: Robert DeNiro include battles with the tough studio chief, Lou: Catherine Keener and actor's agent Dick: John Turturro. Sean Penn stars in Fiercely, the film Ben is showing at Cannes. Ben's most recent ex-wife, Kelly: Robin Wright Penn, still has a burning torch despite an affair with Scott: Stanley Tucci. If he'll shave off a four-month bushy beard, Bruce Willis will star in Ben's next feature. DeNiro is at the top of his form in this ensemble Hollywood slice-of-life well directed by Barry Levinson and written by Art Linson. Some sexuality, drug use. magnolia 110 min.

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Voting for Kids

I love our democracy!

But I do get a little confused when I pick up the 272-page San Francisco treatise and see that it is called voter information “pamphlet.”

Pamphlet??

Maybe treatise??

Maybe encyclopedia??

Even with the benefits provided by the voter simplification committee-- it is a stretch to call this evening read a pamphlet. I can cruise through the Land’s End catalogue in minutes. I breeze through the worldwide adventures of the National Geographic in little more time than it takes to clear the dishes.

But the pamphlet—I am sooo glad they give you plenty of time to read it.

Since Terry and I each get one, we have a pamphlet conveniently placed-- one on each floor of the house. Available at all times---night and day.

Ummm. Bad TV commercial?

Time to pick up the pamphlet and mark off another page.

Note to self: Finished the simplified explanations. Now read the small print.


My grandma used to play a song on the piano –the line I remember most: The days grow short—as we reach November.

Now I am pretty sure she was not referring to the aforementioned pamphlet, but --you never know.

EDUCATION

& OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

by Carol Kocivar



(What? You haven’t finished the pamphlet?)

I will NOT even mention the 143 page State General Election Guide.

Here is some help for those who are really interested in VOTING FOR KIDS.

(Please refer to the title of this article in case you are becoming a little dis-oriented right about now.)

Voila! I will give you a Reader’s Digest version on a couple of issues:

The California State PTA—which advocates to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children-- has taken the following positions on the state ballot:


Support-- Proposition 3, the Children’s Hospital Bond Act, Grant Program, Initiative Statute.

(See pages 20through 23 of your state voter guide and pages 82 through 84.)

Oppose-- Proposition 6, the Police and Law Enforcement Funding, Criminal Penalties and Laws, Initiative Statute.

(See pages 40 through 45 of your state voter guide and pages 106 through 120.)

Most Important: Vote



Another shot of the crowds at the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Festival, in case you missed it.

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Got Stress? and how to manage it

by Sharon Caren

With all of the seriousness today, the economy, election, and regular day-to-day stuff, let's take a break and have a little laugh.....

Dr. Madan Kataria, better known as the Guru of Giggle, is the creator of Laughter Yoga Int'l. There are now 5,000 laughter clubs around the world, www.laughteryoga.org. See it for yourself at YouTube.com. Laughing decreases stress hormones and increases endorphins. Breathing and laughing improves health even if the laugh is faked. No jokes or punch lines, you don't even need to be happy. Just start laughing - belly laughing, if you can. Laughing puts us in the moment. When we're present, not the past or worried about the future, we are being, Human Being!

Quote: "Imagination was given to us to compensate for what we are not; a sense of humor was given to us to console us for what we are" - Mark McGinnis

What is Stress?

We'll never be without stress in our lives. Stress let's us know we're alive. It's an important and normal part of existence. This Fight or Flight instinct is built into all living beings to stay alive and protect the species from predators. It's the circle of life, the food chain.

If we're in a tough situation, there are two choices, to stay and fight or run and take flight. Both choices require a huge chemical shift on the cellular level. The body goes into a "temporary" altered state of protection where our Will To Live is so great; we gain strength and power beyond our normal means. For instance, the mother whose child is pinned under a car tire is able to lift the car to free her child. She isn't able to sustain this power but doesn't need to. The key word here is "temporary".

How Nature Handles Stress

An analogy taken from Eckhart Tolle, author of *The Power of Now*:

Imagine ducks swimming in a pond. These birds are territorial and usually mate for life. Here comes a young male feeling his wild oats and paddles over too close to a female who's already spoken for. Her mate goes after the young duck and the two males get into a flapping, honking and biting match. They rise up out of the water and go neck and neck for a minute or two until the young one backs off. They drift apart, creating space between one another. Then you see the ducks flap their wings ferociously back and forth with great power. They're expelling the left over energy from the squabble. They then swim away, wiggling their tails and settling back down calmly and peacefully. The stressful situation is OVER.

The older duck doesn't swim away in a huff, telling the other ducks watching, "Did you see that young stud trying to pick up my girl? The nerve of him...if he swims around here again, I'll break his neck!" and so on, holding onto it for days or maybe even weeks, telling every duck he comes in contact with. No, when the confrontation is over, the duck flaps his wings and he's done. He floats away, enjoys the beautiful sunshine and looks for his next meal.

If we were back in the Cave Man days, this duck analogy might make more sense, ay? Well the thing is, we

do still have these basic instincts that drive us and take over without our awareness. Our lives are "civilized" now and we don't have to worry about being eaten by the big fish, or do we? Our psyche on the cellular level doesn't really know the difference.

What happens when the boss says, "If you don't make your numbers next quarter, I'll have to let you go." Or when a spouse announces they've found someone else and wants a divorce. The instincts take over and suddenly we're in survival mode. "What happens when banks close their doors with our money inside? Who'll run the country and get us out of debt? Who'll end the war and stop the killing?" and on, and on, and on.

Humans are different from the rest of the animal kingdom. We have thinking, reasoning brains. When a situation arises, we think about it, think about it and think about it some more. These thoughts become cumulative and the worse it gets, the worse it gets. One more thing goes wrong and it's the straw that breaks the camels back. Not able to sleep at night without sleeping pills? Take anti-depressant drugs during the day to feel good? STOP!

Body Chemistry

When we're in Fight or Flight stress mode, our body becomes highly ACIDIC. This throws off the PH balance in the body. We can take the best vitamins and eat all the healthy food we can afford but if we're stressed, none of it matters. Stress is now known to be a significant factor in over 80 percent of all illnesses. Stress is a killer. "let's become aware of our Emotions. Stress creates acid and an imbalance in the blood, (blood becomes thick and not able to oxygenate the body) which zaps energy, messes up our health and our life." taken from my July 08 article, Why Can't I Lose Weight, Alkalize and Energize at www.westsideobserver.com/columns. When we manage stress levels, some great side effects are lower blood pressure and cholesterol, less headaches, less joint aches and pains, and how about just feeling happy!

How to Flap Our Wings

We can flap our wings in numerous ways depending on what we ENJOY. I find the best ones are the easiest. Going for a run, taking a walk or a hike in nature, singing or dancing, reading, going to a funny movie, belly laughing, taking a yoga class, exercise and workout at the gym, anything that will be a distraction to get us out of our thinking mind. There are many doctors who prescribe massage and bodywork to their patients for this very reason.

Different forms of meditation are wonderful to calm the mind and body. Go to TM.org with locations everywhere, if you're interested in learning meditation. There are numerous meditation CD's on the market that are very helpful. Another suggestion, I work a lot with Essential Oil Blends and use personally and on clients for stress: Peace and Calming, Joy, Tranquil, and Hope. Using essential oils helps to raise the body's energetic vibration and shift our mood immediately. Call me if you'd like to try some anti-stress oils. 650.359.6579 Happy Flapping!

For more health tips from Sharon Caron, go to www.westsideobserver.com

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"Liv Aid" Breast Cancer Exam kit Available at Curves on Portola

In an effort to step up the fight against breast cancer, the local Curves of Twin Peaks location on Portola will be offering the "Liv Aid" breast self-exam kit to help women become more comfortable performing their own monthly at-home exams.

Breast self-exam is an important step a women can do herself as part of a regular health routine. "Clearly a significant number of breast cancers are found by the patient herself, even in the setting of a normal mammogram," says renowned cancer surgeon Ernie Bodai, M.D., F.A.C.S.. "The Liv Aid kit greatly enhances a woman's ability in detecting an abnormality, which in many cases will lead to early detection and a chance for a cure."

Non-members at Curves can get a free "Liv Aid" kit when they come into the fitness center and experience a CurvesSmart TM demonstration. CurvesSmart TM is a new personal coaching system customized for each member that is designed to provide motivation and accountability with feedback and progress report detailing, among other things, how many calories were burned during a workout. Curves members have a variety of ways to obtain a "Liv Aid" kit, include showing proof of a mammogram within the last 12 months. The kits are also available for purchase by anyone in the community.

"Curves has always been an advocate of breast cancer awareness, but now we're taking it a step further and helping the women in our community exercise good breast health," said Bonnie Farrell, owner of Curves of Twin Peaks, located at 608 Portola Drive at Woodside. "We're proud to be part of a company whose goal is to put the Liv Aid kit into the hands of a million women in October."

For more information on Curves of Twin Peaks, or details about how women can get the free "Liv Aid" self-exam kit, contact Farrell at 415-759-9103, or via email at TwinPeaksCurves@gmail.com.

Diabetes Prevention and Control Classes

You are invited to attend the Diabetes Prevention and Control Cooking Class by Kristin Doyle. The class is October 23rd 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Institute On Aging (3600 Geary Blvd. (between Argeullo and Palm)

Recipes and samples will be provided. RSVP required, call 415-273-5481. This is an excellent class for anyone who has diabetes or who wants to prevent diabetes. Bring a friend or family member who has diabetes. This

Food for Life Diabetes Nutrition & Cooking Class was designed by physicians, dietitians, and nurses. As a personal chef, Kristin combines her nursing background with her holistic approach to nutrition to create recipes designed specifically for each client and his or her health needs. She taught the Cancer Prevention & Maintenance Cooking Classes last October 2007 and again in April 2008

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Buena Vista Café Goes For World Record



Bartender Fernando keeps traditional San Francisco's Irish Coffee flowing at the Buena Vista Cafe

Served piping hot, with the signature cream on the top, the world's largest Irish Coffee will soon be unveiled at the birthplace of the iconic drink, the historic Buena Vista Café at Fisherman's Wharf. The world record worthy coffee will be one of the attractions of a three day celebration to commemorate the 56th anniversary of the famous creation.

will be creating the world's largest Irish Coffee to share with its patrons. Towering more than 3 feet from the bar and holding more than 15 gallons, the bartenders will be going after the Guinness World Record for crafting a giant Irish Coffee that everyone in attendance will get to sample. The unveiling will take place at Buena Vista Café, 2765 Hyde Street, on Nov10th at 1pm.

The Buena Vista Irish Coffee festival will include Irish food and music, Celtic dancers, celebrity bartenders, giveaways, cake, and a special appearance by Frank Silletti, the 2003 Irish Coffee Making world champion at the annual competition in Foynes, Ireland.

"Irish Coffee" should be considered a San Francisco original along with the Golden Gate Bridge or Coit Tower," said Michael Carden, General Manager of the Buena Vista. " Since the creation of the cocktail 56 years ago, the Buena Vista has served an estimated 37,010,000 Irish Coffees."

There is no better way to celebrate the legend of the drink than to let as many people as possible raise a toast at one time, so the café

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The Family of Freemasonry is proud to join and support our community in this worthwhile endeavor. You can help by bringing new and unwrapped toys to our main collection location, The San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center at the corner of Sloat Blvd & 19th Ave (2850 - 19th Ave) in San Francisco. We are open Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Financial contributions are also accepted (make checks to Toys for Tots). For more information contact the San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center (415 664-4700), Martin Kloess (415 753-3792) or visit the Toys for Tots web site www.toysfortots.org.

Help us share the Holiday Season with a young person who might otherwise have had nothing.

Sudoku-fun!

2		5		6	7	1		
3			1		9	5		
		9	5			8		4
7			9				6	5
		6	3		5	7		
5	4				6			3
4		7			3	2		
		1	2		4			7
		3	7	5		6		1

Rules: Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

The Object: Fill in the blank squares in such a way that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer: The answer appears in another section of the paper.

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BRAIN FOOD

In this exercise, you have to find the "odd ones out" in each group of words. BUT WAIT!! There is a catch. Each group of words has TWO words which do not belong. Can you find them both?

EXAMPLE: Lily - Jane - Tulip - Rose

Jane does not belong as it is the only one that is not a flower.

Tulip also does not belong because it is the only one that's not a woman's name.

You're on your own for the rest:

Dodge - Ford - Lincoln - Hoover

King - Earl - Knight - Bishop

Yellow - Green - Dead - Black

Answer on page 14

SECOND THOUGHTS

by Jack Kaye

When Does a Person Become an Adult?

When I grew up in New York in the 40s and 50s, there were many different definitions of the age and nature of adulthood. We were adult enough to drive at 16, to drink at 18, to join the Army without our parents' consent at 17, and to marry in the South at 14. If we were Jewish, we were considered adult at 13. But no matter what our affiliation, most things required the age of 21 for adult responsibilities. We had to be 21 to vote, buy cigarettes, sign a contract, or do a real estate transaction.

Today, many people consider anyone over 17 years of age to be adult, with all the rights and responsibilities that entails. Except, in order to buy and use alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or sign a real estate contract, you have to be over 21.

The problem is that now anything these teenage "adults" do (they used to be called "minors") or decide is between them and the organization or person involved. For anyone else, the information, be it medical, academic, or financial, is confidential. Isn't this good? Aren't we all scared to death that someone will get some vital information about us against our will?

What if your 19 year-old daughter is away at school and is hospitalized? You are her parents, love her, and pay all her bills. But you have no right to know what happened to her. Maybe she has a learning challenge,



is shy, or naïve. It doesn't matter, she's an adult.

Your son is a freshman at college. He is doing badly in school and is having serious adjustment problems in the dorm where his assigned roommate has a major psychological condition such as obsessive compulsive disorder. You call the school to plead for intervention. The response is that your son is an adult and should be able to deal with it.

You find out the day before that your 20 year-old daughter has contracted for an elective, and seemingly unnecessary surgery. She signed papers promising to pay an exorbitant amount with no option for a refundable cancellation. The daughter acted on a whim and is now caught on the hook. The doctor did not counsel the patient or contact the parents. The 20 year-old is an adult and therefore can make her own decisions about her own body.

While, nowadays 16 year-olds can still get a driver's license, the age at which they are considered adult enough to drive at night and other passengers keeps getting increased because there are so many auto accidents among this "young" adult group.

At the same time, medical science believes that for most people, the frontal lobe of the brain, which controls adult thinking, like strategic planning, prioritizing, seeing short and long term effects of possible actions and decision making, is not fully developed until the age 25. The physiological adulthood starts at 25.

I suggest we make 25 years and older the age of legal adulthood. That would mean that in order to drink alcohol, place a bet, cast a vote, sign a real estate contract, buy a gun, or have personal medical or academic information kept confidential from the family,

a person must be at least 25, which is the new 18 just as 62 is the new 50.

I think that this idea not only makes biological sense, but makes social and economic sense, too. Under this new system, high schools and colleges could no longer hide their accountability behind the backs of adults too young to know better. Doctors and hospitals would be accountable to the authorized adult who is already responsible for paying the bill. Teenagers would no longer be expected to study the 20 or 30 ballot arguments in order to vote intelligently. And think of all the alcohol-related deaths caused by premature and immature intoxication, that could be avoided by extending the minimum age by four years? Maybe some of these young people will never even start drinking. Imagine that, sober adults!

But what about the argument that if a person is old enough to join the Army and kill or be killed in the country's defense, he or she should be old enough to drink and smoke cigarettes and do all the other things adults can do? (Or the older case that if a person is old enough to make a child - 13 or so - he or she is old enough to be an adult?)

The answer is late them wait until they are 25.

But then the question arises: What if not enough people over 25 were willing to fight and die as young men did in Viet Nam and Iraq?

The answer is then maybe we won't go to war as often, but at least we won't have to hear how many teens have lost their lives or limbs before having had the chance to enjoy a little more life

If heaven can wait, why can't adulthood?

VERA WILDE

Shotgun Players' Vera Wilde Connects Mavericks Oscar Wilde and Vera Zasulich. Although aesthete Oscar Wilde and 19th century revolutionary Vera Zasulich never met, they had several traits in common that made them an inspiration to one another. They both attempted to introduce change in a conservative environment and both had the courage and will to stand up for human rights. And although these two prominent 19th century writers came from very different backgrounds and cultures and led lives on opposing social levels, Seattle playwright Chris Jeffries has managed to bundle them together through common ideals that gradually changed society's views on homosexuality and leftist politics.

It's a lively musical with book, songs and music that revolves mainly around Wilde's admiration for Vera's heroic stand against the inhuman and despotic treatment of a sick prisoner who, after failing to remove his hat before General Trepov, was ordered to be harshly thrashed. Vera attempts to kill the General, is arrested and a jury's acquittal of her deed, triggered Wilde's creation of his first play, Vera the Nihilist, in 1880. Although the performance of the play in 1883 was a flop, it brought about social and political repercussions.

When Vera, of poor nobility, is sent to a school to be a governess she becomes involved with a neighboring radical group and is imprisoned for her radical views. After she is acquitted for shooting General Trepov she escapes to Switzerland where she writes articles on the working class in Russia, meets Lenin and is a member of the Russian-Social Democratic Labor Party. She returns to Russia in 1905 where she opposes the Bolshevik Revolution and dies in 1919.

Vera Wilde: through Oct. 26 at Ashby Stage. 510-6500 or visit www.shotgunplayers.org.

BEFORE THE DREAM

Before the Dream: A Tribute to the Life and Mysterious Death of Richard Wright

It was in 1950 when I was a student in Paris that I met Richard Wright through a Middle Eastern tailor. Whenever I passed by the tailor's shop he kept insisting that I meet the American journalist living above his shop. One day I reluctantly agreed and his words hinted to me that even in Paris Wright felt pursued.

The life and death of American novelist Richard Wright, known for his bestseller Native Son and for Black Boy and The Outsider among other novels, was brought to the Teatro de la Esperanza in San Francisco by the Oakland Public Theater Co. For information call 510-534-9529 ext.3 or email oaklandpublic@gmail.com.

MY HOT LOBOTOMY

Counterpulse's My Hot Lobotomy Satirizes Current Passivity on Global Warming. Combining dance, mime, song and technicolor projections. A young

female stares ahead while clouds move on a screen behind. At one point a pizza is delivered with a tape the delivery boy places in a tape recorder that greets the young woman and assures her everything will be great. More pizzas and tapes arrive until the space is filled with pizza boxes and tapes. From time to time the repetition of this action is broken by songs such as "Who Cares" and by images of political figures, events and landscapes on the back screen.

Info: www.zspace Dr. Annette Lust, member S.F. Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle

SHINING CITY

Dark Secrets Illuminated In Shining City at the San Francisco Playhouse Bay Area Premiere of Shining City, a master class in Irish storytelling. The action unfolds in five scenes in the new Dublin office of a beginning psychotherapist. A middle-aged man seeks help after the sudden death of his wife in an auto accident. He can't sleep. He's plagued by grief and guilt. He's also fled from their home to a bed and breakfast after some visits by his wife's ghost. The psychotherapist's personal problems parallel his patient's.

In this contemporary ghost story exploring the loss of faith in God, in relationships and in one's self.

Tues7pm Wed-Sat 8pm Sun 3pm ends Nov 22 SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St. 677-9596 www.sfplayhouse.org.

AMERICAN WHUP-ASS

Another political farce, "American Whup-Ass" at Alter Theatre (the Alternative Theatre Ensemble) in San Rafael, was a 2007 Aurora Theatre Global Age Project winner and this production is a world premiere.

American Whup-Ass is an assault on the American political process that follows the re-election campaign of a Nevada senator. This embattled candidate suffers the embarrassment of his wife taking off with his campaign manager, is challenged to a wrestling match on national television, and constantly has to defend his manhood. In between lifting weights and training sessions with the Iron Buddha, he ducks talk-show hosts and tries to save the planet (or at least the state of Nevada) from toxic sludge.

It's all in a spirit of fun, a spoof of the political campaign process which is witty, irreverent and dangerously current. The responsive audience seemed to be having a really good time.

At the former San Rafael City Hall, 1299 Fourth Thursat at 8pm -Sund7pm ends Nov 9. www.altertheatre.org. boxoffice@altertheatre.org Flora Lynn Isaacson



PO Box 27176, SF 94127
www.westsideobserver.com
415 517-6331
Publisher/Editor: Mitch Bull • mitch@westsideobserver.com
Associate Editor: Alice Bull
Managing Editor: Doug Comstock • editor@westsideobserver.com
Dir. Advertising Sales • Catha Hall 650-365-6565
cell: 415-990-9330
Contributors: Mitch Bull, Sharon Caren, Captain Paul Chignell, Jonathon Farrell, Warren Hinckle, Jack Kaye, Dr. Carol Kocivar, Quentin Kopp, Annette Lust, Don Lee Miller, Clint Reilly, Phyllis Sherman, George Wooding.

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Sudoku Answers:

2	8	5	4	6	7	1	3	9
3	7	4	1	8	9	5	2	6
6	1	9	5	3	2	8	7	4
7	3	8	9	2	1	4	6	5
1	9	6	3	4	5	7	8	2
5	4	2	8	7	6	9	1	3
4	5	7	6	1	3	2	9	8
8	6	1	2	9	4	3	5	7
9	2	3	7	5	8	6	4	1

Answer to Brain Food:

1. Hoover does not belong as it's the only one which is not a car manufacturer. Dodge does not belong as it's the only one which is not the last name of a President of the USA.
2. Bishop does not belong as it's the only one which is not a class of nobility. Earl does not belong as it's the only one that is not a Chess piece.
3. Dead does not belong as it's the only one which is not a color. Green does not belong as it's the only one which is not the name of a sea.

Homicide

Thank you for the calls and inquiries about the homicide the other night at 17th and Noriega. This case is under intense investigation. Anyone with information, should contact Inspecors John Cagney and Michael Johnson at 553-1145 during business hours and 553-1071 at night. The SFPD anonymous tip line is 575-4444.

Robbery

Municipal Railway Robbers Arrested

10/17/08 6:40 pm Ocean Avenue and 19th Avenue

A woman was riding on the Muni “M” line in the back of the coach when four suspects approached her, one of whom grabbed her Ipod from her person and then fled the bus. Officers Alan Levy and Travis Pitcher were flagged down by the victim at Vicente and West Portal who told the officers about the robbery. A separate robbery case was being investigated by other Taraval officers and they had a number of suspects in custody. The victim in this case positively identified one of the suspects as the person who robbed her and another suspect had her Ipod in his pocket. The suspects, who live on the 200 block of Eddy and the 2800 block of 23rd Street, were arrested for robbery, conspiracy and receiving stolen property. Case #081111890

10/17/08 6:50 pm 15th Avenue and West Portal

A woman was on the “M” line on West Portal when she saw 7 males staring at her. She became scared and opened up a book. She then saw them still staring so she attempted to exit the bus. Suddenly one of the males ripped her backpack from her and all of the suspects fled the bus with the backpack and they exchanged the backpack amongst themselves

as they ran up the street laughing. Officers Michael Evans, Orit Samson, Mari Noguchi, Joe Chang, Alan Levy and Travis Pitcher responded and located the suspects. The victims’ property was found on the suspects and the victim identified the suspects. Additional stolen property was found on the suspects. The suspects, who live on Hawkins Lane, the 200 block of Ramsell, the 2800 block of 23rd Street, the 100 block of Northridge and the 200 block of Eddy, were arrested for robbery. Case #081112070

Prostitution

Breaking News in the Taraval Police District:

10/21/08 1:50 pm 1200 block of Vicente

Over the past few days numerous community residents and community leaders have alerted the Taraval Police Station of probable prostitution activity at a “fitness” center at 1202 Vicente, near Dianne Feinstein Elementary School. We contacted the Vice Crimes Division and requested that they conduct an investigation.

Today at 2:30 pm San Francisco Police Department Vice Crimes officers entered the establishment and were solicited for an act of prostitution. The employee was cited. There will now be an investigation by the San Francisco Health Department and the City Attorney.

We thank the community for working with us. Houses of prostitution will not be tolerated in this police district.

Homicide

Murder Suspect Arrested on Edinburg

10/25/08 11:50 pm 400 block of Holloway

Officers Peterkent DeJesus and Aaron Foltz went

POLICE
BLOTTER



Police Captain
Paul Chignell,
Taraval Station

to an address on the 400 block of Holloway on a noise complaint. When they entered the garage they located a victim of a stabbing. The officers called for medics and the victim was taken to San Francisco General Hospital where he died. The officers conducted an investigation and determined the identity of the suspect. Ingleside officers were dispatched to the 300 block of Edinburgh and arrested the suspect for murder. Case #081140946

Graffiti

There have been multiple reports of graffiti attacks throughout the district including the West Portal commercial area. We have increased passing calls in the areas where these suspects have been operating. Please call us if you see juveniles loitering and acting suspiciously. Most of our graffiti arrests have occurred when residents call us

For a complete daily Police Report from the Taraval Police Station, go to our website: www.westsideobserver.com

Where Can I Find the OBSERVER?

West Portal Avenue Area:

- Newspaper Box in front of Post office on West Portal Ave.
- Century 21 – Scott Keys Realty – 101 Vicente St.
- Dubliner Irish Bar
- Greenhouse Café
- West Portal Books
- West Portal Music Store
- West Portal Library
- Zephyr Real Estate Office

Ocean Avenue Area:

- Lakeside Grill (Ocean Avenue)
- Villa D’Este (Ocean Avenue)

Stonestown Area:

- Stonestown Cinema – behind Stonestown Center
- Stonestown YMCA

Portola Ave Area:

- Creighton’s Bakery - Portola Dr.
- Curves – 608 Portola Drive
- Mollie Stone Market – Portola Dr.

Sloat Blvd Area:

- Aqua Surf Shop (Across from SF Zoo)
- John’s Ocean Beach Café on Sloat (across from Zoo)

Taraval Street Area:

- Tennessee Grill (1128 Taraval)
- Trolley Cafe (1300 block of Taraval)
- Parkside Library (1200 block of Taraval)
- Sunset Pet Supply – (2226 Taraval)

Parkmerced Area:

- Park Place Market – Parkmerced

Noe Valley Area:

- Bell Market (24th and Noe)
- Fresca Restaurant (24th and Noe)
- MRW Hairdresser
- Nail Chic on Castro at Noe
- Noe Valley Library

Other Locations:

- Italian American Social Club – 25 Russia Ave. – Excelsior Dist
- Liberty Fitness – 3725 Noriega St.
- Massage Envy – Westlake Shopping Center – Daly City
- Merced Library Branch – 19th Ave @ Winston
- Sunset Library – 18th Street @ Irving
- Main Library – 100 Larkin St.



Locations may run out of papers alert us 415 517-3661. We support local business, call if you can help to supply the Observer to the public, and add your name to this list.

Sunset Community Democratic Club voter recommendations for Nov 4, 2008

www.sf-scdc.org



District 4
Carmen Chu



District 7
Sean Elsbernd



School Board
Norman Yee



Community College Board
Milton Marks



Community College Board
Chris Jackson



Prop A - Rebuild SFGH



Prop H - Clean Energy

Local Ballot Measures

1A - High-speed passenger train bond act	NO
2 - Standards for confining farm animals	NO
3 - Children's hospital bond act	YES
4 - Protect a woman's right to choose	NO
5 - Non-violent drug offenses	YES
6 - Fund schools not prisons	NO
7 - Don't turn back the clock on the environment	NO
8 - Eliminates right of same-sex couples to marry	NO NO NO
9 - Criminal justice system. Victim's rights. Parole.	NO
10 - Alternative fuel vehicles and renewable energy	NO
11 - The wrong solution	NO NO NO
12 - Veteran's bond act of 2008	YES

State Ballot Measures

A - SF General Hospital Earthquake Safety Bonds	YES
B - Another Set-aside to negatively impact the budget	NO
C - No city employees on boards & commissions	NO
D - Create jobs & parks for Bayview; largely self-financing	YES
E - Number of signatures required for recall	NO
F - Elections in even number years	NO
G - Credit for unpaid parental leave (retirement)	NO
H - Clean Energy Act	YES
I - Independent Rate Payer Advocate	NO
J - Another level of bureaucracy	NO
K - Legalize prostitution	NE
L - Community justice center	YES
M - Tenant harrassment	NO
N - Real property transfer tax	YES
O - Emergency response 911	YES
P - Transportation authority	NO
Q - Payroll expense tax	NE
R - Oceanside water treatment plant name change	NO
S - Budget set-aside rules	NO
T - Substance abuse treatment	NE
U - Policy statement Iraq	NE
V - Policy statement JROTC	YES

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