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## Time To Elect A New Supervisor For District Seven

By George Wooding  
*D-7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd will term out during the upcoming November 6 presidential election and a new supervisor will be elected.*

**T**here are currently nine candidates running for D-7 Supervisor: Andrew Bley, FX Crowley, Joel Engardio, Michael Garcia, Lynn Gavin (the only woman candidate), Julian Lagos, Glenn Rogers, Bob Squeri, and Norman Yee.

**In an effort to help D-7 voters better know D7 candidate positions, each candidate has responded to 17 questions for reader review. This unique candidate survey was designed to help voters find the candidate(s) that they prefer without knowing which candidate they are selecting until the end of the survey. Each candidate has been designated the same alphabetical letter throughout the entire survey.**

With no incumbent, the election race for D-7 Supervisor promises to be wild, tough, and grueling. Many of the candidates started running and raising money over a year ago. History suggests that the candidates with the most money, endorsements, special interest backing, and City Hall support will have the best chance of winning the election.

The amounts of money raised and the votes promised to financial supporters are often more binding than the ideas or the promises made to constituents. This would help explain why only 30.83% of the registered 471,657 San Francisco voters even bothered to vote in the June election — an all time low.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) will also make this a crazy race. Some might remember that Supervisor Malia Cohen became the District 10 Supervisor by receiving only 21% of the District 10 vote. She initially received only 2,097 first-place votes out of 20,550 cast, and eventually won the D-10 race when she ended with 4,321 votes. Is this democracy?

According to elections demographic expert Christopher Bowman, “No candidate for D-7 supervisor will receive the required 50% votes needed to win the election on the first ballot.” This means that the really smart candidates will start forming voting alliances to help each other win.

In an effort to help D-7 voters better know D7 candidate positions, each candidate has responded to 17 questions for reader review. This unique candidate survey was

designed to help voters find the candidate(s) that they prefer without knowing which candidate they are selecting until the end of the survey. Each candidate has been designated the same alphabetical letter throughout the entire survey.

The survey was designed to create a level playing field for each candidate. Money, political connections, special interests and campaign consultants won't help a candidate here — only answers that you, the voter, prefer.

**Do yourself a favor and don't cheat.** You may find that the candidate that you thought you liked doesn't measure up, while a D-7 candidate that you did not know or perhaps did not like may become your favorite candidate. All candidate responses are printed here as submitted. Space in this newspaper limits printed responses to a sampling of seven questions, but readers are encouraged to access the entire survey on our website: [www.westsideobserver.com](http://www.westsideobserver.com).

District Seven Supervisoral Candidate Responses to Survey

**1. Parkmerced The Parkmerced (PM) development will cause years of construction, housing, transportation, and tenant problems throughout your term. How will you handle these problems?**

**A** I will work to uphold the agreement in place with its protections. I propose forming a committee of Parkmerced and neighborhood residents, city departments and Parkmerced development representatives to meet weekly to mitigate or solve problems as they arise.

**B** I will do all in my power to assure that the many complex issues affecting the residents and tenants of District 7 are addressed to the fullest, and I will hold the developer responsible to the fullest.(transportation, tenant relocation, seismic concerns, traffic congestion 19th Ave. etc.).

**C** This project is under litigation. Presently, 19th Avenue is already impacted. All buildings have a life expectancy of 100 years, these apartments are no exception. The layout of this development was by Thomas Church, a giant in Landscape Architecture.

**D** Assure that the reasonable safeguards in place that address displacement, maintenance of rent control, and minimal construction impacts are adhered to. Transportation problems, unfortunately, are there but are offset by increases in the housing stock, job creation, and increased tax revenues.

**E** Development at Parkmerced is inevitable because SF must meet increased housing needs while protecting District 7's single-family neighborhoods as a valued asset. Displaced tenants deserve a lifetime rent controlled contract with their units ultimately going to market value.

**F** Developers have made commitments to address these issues and I will ensure that they keep their promises. I have had experience working with a tenant for 10 years to maintain her right to operate her business in Parkmerced.

**G** No candidate response.

Cont. p. 8



Andrew Bley



FX Crowley



Joel Engardio



Mike Garcia



Lynn Gavin



Julian Lagos



Glenn Rogers



Robert Squeri



Norman Yee

## Hollywired for a Day

West Portal is the local for Woody Allen's new, but yet unnamed, San Francisco movie starring Cate Blanchett, Alec Baldwin, Louis C.K., Andrew Dice Clay, Sally Hawkins and many others. There are also a lot of local extras who will be seen in the film.

The plot involves a formerly wealthy New York woman who moves in with her San Francisco sister after losing her fortune. She loses her heart to a new lover as well as San Francisco.

The finished movie is expected to begin running at the end of 2013.  
(More: Around Town - p. 11)



Our intrepid paparazzi (Mitch Bull) caught these rare glimpses of Cate Blanchett arriving on the scene at around 8:30 am. Despite the warm and beautiful day the actress was well protected

Crowds of onlookers milled about as trucks clogged the streets at Ulloa & Claremont but neighbors — even chronic parking complainers — were happy to relinquish the territory for the opportunity to see the nitty-gritty of how Hollywood films are made.



## REC & PARK'S \$10 MILLION LAKE MERCED MESS

By Jerry Cadagan

Continuing bureaucratic follies at Lake Merced: more details are out about a shocking new revelation: the cost to clean up the soil contamination at the Pacific Rod & Gun Club (PRGC) site is estimated to be \$10.7 million. Past use of lead shot and non-biodegradable clay targets has resulted in elevated levels of lead, arsenic and poly aromatic hydrocarbons in the soil. Under pressure from the local Regional Water Quality Control Board, SFPUC has demanded that PRGC pay to clean the problem up. That should end the issue, one would think. Either PRGC has the financial wherewithal to pay the \$10 million, or it carried insurance to cover this kind of problem. Right? Sorry, wrong on both counts.

So, why didn't PRGC's landlord, the City That Knows How, require PRGC to carry insurance? Here's the sordid history: SFPUC owns all of the Lake Merced area. In 1950 it made a terrible mistake and delegated to the SF Recreation & Park Dept (RPD) vague management responsibilities at Lake Merced. The month-to-month lease with PRGC was already in effect, so RPD took over administration of the lease and gladly accepted rent payments from PRGC. But, never once

since 1950 did it occur to RPD to tell PRGC that if PRGC wanted to continue as a month-to-month tenant it had to get insurance protecting the City from potential liabilities associated with operating a gun shooting operation. Amazingly, since the month-to-month lease was signed in 1933 it has not been amended once! So now PRGC says it doesn't have insurance and it doesn't happen to have \$10 million laying around to pay the clean up bill.

Cont. p. 5



## Food Trucks are Coming and May Help More Discover West Portal

By Keith Burbank

Food trucks, which may be bringing more business to merchants and restaurants alike, are coming to West Portal. The event will be hosted by OfftheGrid, which brings together food trucks for events in Hayes Valley in San Francisco and in North Berkeley, near the Gourmet Ghetto, among other Bay Area locations.

Supporters of the food truck event in West Portal, such as Alison (Al) Werger, co-owner of Citipets on West Portal Avenue, want to achieve at least two things by bringing food trucks to the neighborhood. One, improve business for all merchants, and two, make West Portal a destination neighborhood, similar to the Castro in terms of sales for merchants in the neighborhood.

Werger said that West Portal is not now a destination neighborhood, but everyone that lives here loves it. "What we want is for people to discover West Portal," Werger said. That is the purpose of the food truck event. So that when they [people] want to shop and dine they will think of West Portal and come here, as people do in the Castro or other busy shopping neighborhoods.

Werger told The Westside Observer that OfftheGrid will not be bringing trucks with the same kind of food as that sold by West Portal restaurants, so as to avoid competition with restaurants in West Portal. Werger said that there are really great restaurants here [in West Portal], but people do not know they are here. "And I want people to know about them and how great they are, Werger said. For example, "I have asked people if they have eaten at Bursa," Werger said. "And people reply, Where is Bursa? I want people to know where Bursa is."

Evidence from other food truck events in San Francisco suggest the event is a success for food trucks and other merchants, restaurant or otherwise. For example, the food truck events are popular at other locations, such as the McCoppin Hub and Hayes Valley. In Oakland, near City Center, shiny green trucks glow as people from the State of California building choose which item to indulge in. And despite some initial reluctance, at least some restaurants in the North Berkeley neighborhood have reversed course and are welcoming the event.

For example, Saul's, an established delicatessen on Shattuck Avenue, is welcoming the publicity it gets when the food truck event is happening, its manager said. And Gregoire, a gourmet takeout shop in North Berkeley, said it's sales may have fallen a bit, but not considerably, when the food truck event in the Gourmet Ghetto first started. But now its sales have leveled off or improved, owner, Gregoire Jacquet said. "It does bring people," Jacquet said of the food truck event. Jacquet called The westside Observer after the August issue was delivered to newstands last month.



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RUMINATIONS FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR By Quentin Kopp



The author is unknown, but it was a wise wag who declared: “The main hope of civilization is that people may get together someday and try it.” They’re about to try again at the national, state and local election on November 6, 2012, but, meanwhile, pithy comments abound respecting contemporary civic and neighborhood problems and issues.

One such issue is the pitiful public extravaganza commonly known as the **Central Subway project**, about which many others and I have written over the past year. Business owners in North Beach have awakened to the fact that construction of the Project in the environs of Columbus Avenue will cause disruption on a scale never before occurring in North Beach, including the 1906 Fire and Earthquake. Realization that the project doesn’t even involve a subway station in Washington Square, which theoretically could be used by riders to Chinatown and North Beach, and that Washington Square use will rest upon utilization of tunneling machinery which will eventually be left beneath Washington Square, generated several public meetings over the summer with MUNI bureaucrats and flacks. (I know the current nomenclature is the Metropolitan Transportation Authority or MTA, but to me it’s the MUNI whether operating buses, trolleys or cable cars while socking it to automobile drivers with enormous parking meter tax increases.) The City Charter prohibits the use of any public park for a permanent structure without a vote of the people! The Central Subway Project will insert structures in both Washington Square and Union Square. A City Attorney opinion from the 1970’s on another subject constitutes Municipal Railway bureaucratic reassurance about ignoring voter approval, but fortunately, several San Franciscans and a North Beach association may file suit

**The daily press, whenever it covers the project, ignores the absence of federal transportation money (\$942,000,000) essential to completion. Municipal Railway officials misrepresented to the public last year that federal grant approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation would occur by the end of 2011. It didn’t. It happened only two weeks ago, subject to Congressional rejection, but the House of Representatives, meanwhile, passed a transportation-funding bill last June specifically barring any federal money for the Central Subway Project.”**

under the Charter to stop the multi-year destruction of Columbus Avenue.

The daily press, whenever it covers the project, ignores the absence of federal transportation money (\$942,000,000) essential to completion. Municipal Railway officials misrepresented to the public last year that federal grant approval by the U.S. Department of Transportation would occur by the end of 2011. It didn’t. It happened only two weeks ago, subject to Congressional rejection, but the House of Representatives, meanwhile, passed a transportation-funding bill last June specifically barring any federal money for the Central Subway Project. The United States Senate version of the same program doesn’t contain that bar, but no joint conference committee to resolve House and Senate differences has occurred or is even scheduled this fall. Meanwhile, all four construction bids for the Stockton Street station were rejected because they exceeded MUNI estimates (!). Local sales tax money has been, and is, being spent to promote this pipedream, which must be a subject of debate for all nine District 7 Board of Supervisors candidates this fall. MUNI riders suffer daily from inadequate equipment maintenance. Even MUNI bureaucrats admit the Central Subway project operationally will increase MUNI’s maintenance financial deficit by over \$15,000,000 per year. Instead of improving MUNI performance, the project, if built, would increase the maintenance deficit.

Under the radar lies another civic transportation fiasco, replete with deceit. The Transbay Terminal Project is really a real estate project, premised upon building a lavish “Transbay Terminal” for MUNI, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit Authority buses as well as Peninsula commuter trains and, supposedly, California High-Speed Rail trains. Two tracks would be extended 1.3 miles from Fourth and King Streets to First and Mission Streets. Awarded to a partnership consisting of Texas-based Hines & Co. and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the real estate project comprises on paper residential units and commercial spaces, (naturally with much subsidized housing), thus theoretically providing a financial foundation for the \$1,500,000,000 public terminal and park niceties displayed over the past years in gaudy color presentations to an unwitting public, with engineers, environmental analysts, construction firms and public relations flacks panting excitedly over snagging more taxpayer dollars. Now, it’s

disclosed that last June the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company withdrew from the project. Metropolitan Life Insurance doesn’t want to gamble upon this fanciful real estate project. Hines & Co. had agreed to pay the Transbay Terminal Authority approximately \$180,000,000 for the First and Mission parcel, meaning Metropolitan Life Insurance would have paid half that sum. Not any more.

The aggrandizing Transbay Terminal Authority, comprised of a supine governing board of nine people from San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, and led by six-figured salaried bureaucrats and press agents, aided and abetted by local Washington politicians, extracted \$400,000,000 from the 2009 Federal stimulus bill for construction of a “train box” to accommodate the theoretical extension of tracks from Fourth and King Streets to First and Mission Streets for Peninsula commute and California High-Speed Rail trains. Undisclosed to San Francisco residents and taxpayers is the cost of building tracks from Fourth and King Streets to the vaunted new Transbay Terminal: \$4,200,000,000 as of 2011 to traverse just 1.3 miles of city streets and valuable commercial properties underground. Unstated also is that no source of such money exists or is likely to exist. If \$400,000,000 is ever spent for such “train box,” it will constitute public waste within the meaning of California Code of Civil Procedures section 526(a) (2). Litigation in Sacramento County Superior Court against the California High-Speed Rail Authority raises inferentially that issue in a case not yet set for trial.

Other examples of violations of basic governmental budgetary principles include Governor Brown’s Proposition 30, the wealthy Mollie Munger’s Proposition 38 and Proposition 39. State income and sales tax revenue belongs in the General Fund of the State of California for allocation by the Legislature and Governor. Income and sales taxes shouldn’t ever be treated as special funds. Instead of following that financially sound historical principle, Brown’s tax increase measure would divide the increased taxes only to California’s educational system and law enforcement. Munger’s Proposition 38 pushes all its higher income taxes into education. Proposition 39, almost entirely financed by yet another multimillionaire Democrat, changes current corporate income taxation in California, which lamentably permits corporations to choose the least expensive measure of

Cont. p. 7



Goats on West Portal?

By Jonathan Farrell

Goat Hill Pizza had a grand opening on August 27 at the former bakery at 170 West Portal.

With two other locations in the City, Goat Hill Pizza owner Phillip DeAndrade brings the long-established neighborhood camaraderie that has made his Potrero Hill pizzeria the central meeting spot to eat, drink and enjoy an afternoon or evening.

Established in 1975, Goat Hill Pizza has been an anchor, gathering a loyal following that appreciates the 100% homemade dishes. With its signature sourdough pizza crust, fresh salads and soups and its “all you can eat” Monday nights, the oldest restaurant on Potrero Hill, Goat Hill Pizza has been a favorite for more than 30 years. He hopes to build that same longevity and following in West Portal. “West Portal is a happening place,” he said, “I look forward to meeting new friends, I know they are going to love the food.” The etched glass graffiti incident could not dampen his enthusiasm for the neighborhood. “There is plenty of business here for everyone, we just concentrate on making the best pizzas and pasta — the rest will take care of itself.”

The bright, clean interior, with crisp red and black trim against warm gray walls is as inviting as the menu, which promises more than pizza. “We will be introducing specials and unique dishes designed just for our West Portal location,” said general manager Elena Nuestadt. She emphasized that— with everything being homemade— Goat Hill staff are eager to create special



Phil DeAndrade, owner of Goat Hill Pizza loves being on West Portal Avenue

calzones and salads, aimed at pleasing the West Portal neighborhood. “We are excited to be a part of West Portal and so far we have been getting lots of good feedback from local clientele who are happy we are moving in.”

Right next to the public parking lot, Goat Hill Pizza is filling an empty spot. The current economic recession has caused closures in just about every neighborhood. While Goat Hill might create some competition for other eateries like the Village Grill just a few doors away, to have the empty space filled by a locally-owned franchise is a welcomed sight, especially to West Portal residents like author Joe Sutton who treasure West Portal as a community. “I’m thrilled that Goat Hill Pizza has opened another establishment in my West Portal neighborhood,” said Sutton. “Being a huge pizza lover, I don’t have to travel across town anymore to enjoy their fabulous sourdough pizza.”

Nuestadt said “Our West Portal location will be ‘cafeteria style’ with 12 tables for people to order and sit at. No serving staff, that is only for our Potrero Hill location. Yet as we get more situated, we will introduce specials offered only at West Portal,” said Nuestadt. And they offer a gluten-free crust as well as vegan Dayia cheese option, so everyone can enjoy the food.

**Goat Hill Pizza**  
170 West Portal Avenue  
www.goathill.com  
242-GOAT



Welcome to the neighborhood! In spite of the ugly etched glass graffiti welcome, a plate glass replacement expense, undeterred customers swarm in to try the new neighborhood treat.





# Rate Rackets.

By Steve Lawrence

**W**e San Franciscans reflexively run counter to the “less enlightened” heartland of these wide United States. Elsewhere, in response to the Great Recession, government is petulantly shrinking. Here government grows. Seven-point-three billion is being spent by San Francisco this fiscal year, up from the previous year’s six-point-seven. Water rates doubled in the past five years. To improve the water system we are spending about two billion dollars of San Francisco money. Plans are to spend seven billion dollars on the sewer system. Sewer rates are poised to rise even more sharply than water rates have.

**“Towards the end of the massive program, the average rate paid for sewer and water (the bill for both come together) will double as a percentage of income...”**

Seven billion dollars is on the order of \$8500 per San Franciscan.

While most of the sewer spending comes during the first decade, spending will span twenty years. Rates are to rise to about three-and-a-half times what they are.

This massive new government program is called the Sewer System Improvement Program, SSIP. (Don’t even think about it; pronouncing “wee-sip” for WSIP, the water system improvement program, was bad enough.)

This summer our SF Public Utilities Commission is “validating” the SSIP program. The program is being proposed by civil servants who are advised by an eminent national consulting firm. The consulting firm has studied existing conditions, and—any surprise here?—has found that improvements are needed. A seven billion dollar program is recommended. The Commissioners could pare that price-tag, or add to it; but they will likely accept it.

Towards the end of the massive program, the average rate paid for sewer and water (the bill for both come together) will double as a percentage of income—average income. (For this calculation, average income is assumed to rise 3% per year for the twenty years. Good luck with that.)

While the SFPUC does at least make a show of considering “affordability,” it does so looking at “the average bill.” Like Diogenes’ honest man, Mr. average Joe Plumber has yet to be found. But certainly he or she is not a family man. Households in San Francisco often contain only one person. Perhaps a two person household, living in a smallish flat, is the SFPUC average. But if you have a family you may be a four person household, or larger. Probably you use more water than the average on which “affordability” is judged. If you do—and four people usually do use more than two—then your bills will not be proportionately higher than “average,” they will be much higher. Why? Because rates are tiered. That means that for the first three units (a quantity of water, about 2244 gallons) per month you pay at a low rate. Further water usage is paid at a high rate. Same with sewage; your bill for sewage is based on the quantity of water that you use. So if you happen to live in a household with more than the average number of people, you pay at a higher average rate for water and sewer service. While Joe Average’s bill may remain affordable, good luck

if you are a family or group living in one household.

This is one reason families flee San Francisco. It is not too hard for one or two people to use little water, living in their small flat. They go out to dinner four times a week, keep only a few houseplants, and install only the coolest, greenest washers, dishwashers and toilets, receiving rebates. Or, perhaps they have their laundry done down at the corner. It is much harder to keep a yard and family using very little water. Tiered rates rocket the family’s bill into an unaffordable stratosphere.

In the stagflation of the 1970’s, property tax increases stung. In our era’s Great Recession and hobbled recovery, “taxes” are avoided, but government still finds revenue sources. It doesn’t take a Moonbeam.

Why does SFPUC consider affordability the way it does? SFPUC is firmly under the sway of the environmentalists. Enviro simply hate single family housing. Tier them down.

SFPUC did constitute study groups of ratepayers to better understand (and justify) how the upcoming massive SSIP program would go over with the public. One study group came from Bayview, one Chinese, one Spanish speaking, and yes, one, well, other. You may not be shocked to learn that the level of understanding of participants was found to be: not high. But SFPUC staff was pleased to find that as participants were educated and began to understand more acceptance of the SSIP program increased. In other words, the groups “worked.” (Hurray for us.)

Expect, then, plenty of “outreach,” to sell, ‘er educate, the public about the SSIP.

Should you live in a community affected by the sewer system work, you may receive “community benefits,” too. So important is community relations that there has come to be an assistant General Manager for community benefits at SFPUC.

This summer the SFPUC staff moved into plush new quarters. Their new, green, \$200 million building is at 525 Golden Gate Avenue, and is complete with artworks and all manner of impressive innovations. Go tour it. For SFPUC it’s been quite a summer: “validating” and launching a \$7 billion public works program, and moving to new offices.

San Franciscans don’t mind picking up the bill, do they?

Feedback: [lawrence@westsideobserver.com](mailto:lawrence@westsideobserver.com)

## Serving Two Masters

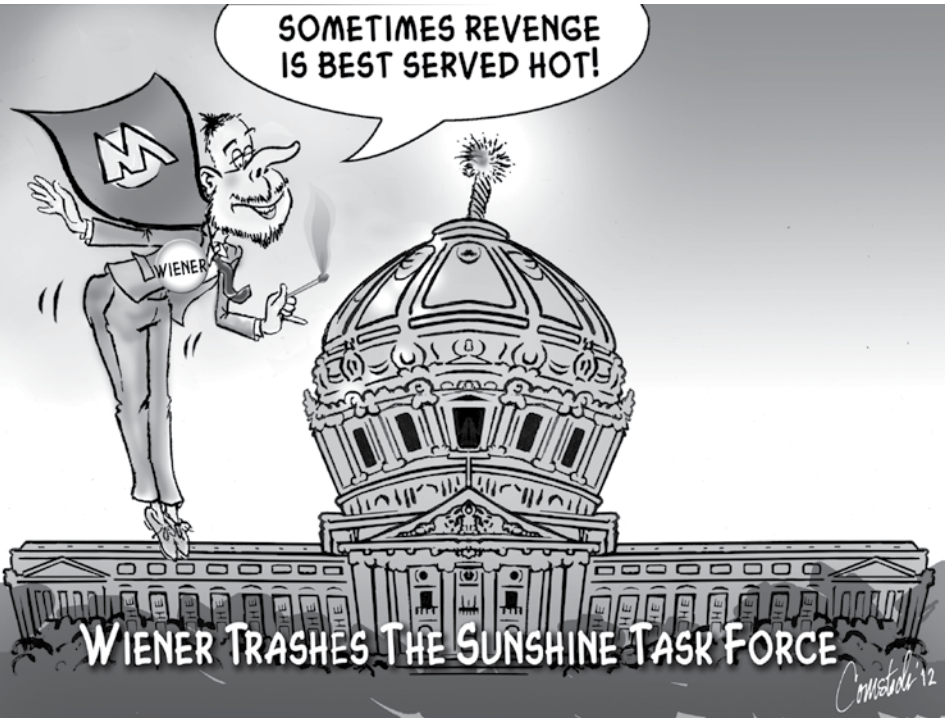
**I**t’s only fair that the Board of Supervisors admit the obvious: open government laws do not apply to the Board of Supervisors. It is exempt from Sunshine laws because it appoints the board that enforces them.

As the new, unwitting appointees to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) are sworn in, they are legally bound to enforce the laws they oversee. Little do they know that they will also serve a conflicting set of unwritten laws imposed by the Board of Supervisors.

The environment of impunity at City Hall, the result of the Ethics Commission’s refusal to pursue Sunshine violations, pales in comparison to the hostile take-over last month of the SOTF by the Supervisors. The removal of Bruce Wolfe, Jay Costa and Hanley Chan, three seasoned veterans of the struggle to bring full disclosure to City Hall, and the refusal to reappoint Allyson Washburn, the League of Women Voters’ nominee, and Suzanne Manneh, the New American Media’s nominee — both highly qualified and knowledgeable members who are willing to serve — has effectively killed the voter-mandated Task Force.

Who knew there were unwritten laws for Sunshine? Doesn’t the public have a right to know what they are? We’ve long known that City Hall’s “support” of Sunshine is mere lip service, but so far there has not been a coordinated effort to subvert the law — at least not to our knowledge.

The Task Force is already months behind in its hearings and out of compliance with its mandate through no fault of its own. The Board of Supervisors created this mess and must fix it immediately.



## THE BOLD CHOICE

MY TWO CENTS By Will Durst

**W**ith the election slipping away like a handful of mercury on a turbocharged Merry-Go-Round, Mitt Romney managed to change the conversation from unreleased tax returns and foreign misadventures by plucking Paul Ryan out of the Wisconsin wilds to be his running mate. “Romney-Ryan.” Short, alliterative and one syllable more conservative than “Obama-Biden.”



The situation appeared so desperate, the choice couldn’t wait until after Closing Ceremonies of the Olympics, forcing the House Budget Committee Chairman to share the weekend spotlight with enough English pop stars to clear out the hairspray aisle at 7 Boots’ drug stores. The Republican Congressman may be famous for his P90x work-out regimen, but the Spice Girls have much better legs. And they’re way older.

Ryan was universally hailed as a bold choice. Yeah, well, maybe, but bold is not always synonymous with good. Whiskey for breakfast is a bold choice. Spun glass underwear is bold. Forehead dragon tattoos. Passing an 18 wheeler on a blind curve doing 80 in the rain. Incredibly bold. Not necessarily smart.

Another white male Christian conservative. That is bold. But only when NOT compared to absolutely anything else. It’s been speculated a major reason for awarding the Wisconsin Congressman prize spot at the bottom of the bumper sticker was to energize the base. And total slam-dunk there. The question is: which base?

Republicans are shaking like a Brazilian supermodel on a Lake Superior beach shoot in January. Only, happier. Haven’t seen them this excited since John McCain hooked up with some governor of Alaska. Meanwhile, Democrats are salivating so uncontrollably, they’d be advised to invest in bibs to keep from soiling their 5 thousand dollar Man-of-the-People suits.

A coordinated attack was immediately launched to trash Ryan’s Path to Prosperity budget bill, which replaces Medicare with vouchers. Health care coupons. Why? Because old people love coupons. “I got a coupon. Only four more, we can book an anesthesiologist.”

The Romney campaign instantly counter- accused the President of gutting Medicare to the tune of \$700 billion for ObamaCare. So we got that to look forward to: 11 more weeks of the echoing refrain of “You’re killing Medicare,” “No, you’re killing Medicare.” Rinse and repeat. And repeat again. Continue rinsing.

Ryan, a self-professed Ayn Rand acolyte, was forced to denounce his Objectivism hero when somebody on his staff who reads discovered Ms. Rand rejected all forms of religion, which some might infer meant she did not believe in Jesus. You can love one or the other, but not both. Like with Wham!

Allegations also arose that while Ryan ladled scorn onto the stimulus bill, he wrote 4 letters to the Secretary of Energy praising programs and requesting funds for his district. Could this be a fount of flip for Mitt’s famed flop?

Ryan doesn’t do much to help with Romney’s Richie Rich problem either. Wealthy son of a Janesville, Wisconsin highway contractor, he amended his financial disclosure statement in March, having forgotten to include a \$5 million trust account. Then again, who among us hasn’t forgotten a multi million dollar trust account? “Now where did I put that pesky Five Mil? Must be in my other pants pockets.”

Difficult to discern whether the GOP Boy Wonder is helping or hindering Wilard’s ticket. But if the campaign arc doesn’t start levitating real soon, he might be forced to release some tax returns just to change the conversation. Again.

*The New York Times* says 5 time Emmy- nominated comedian and writer Will Durst “is quite possibly the best political comic working in the country today.” Check out the website: [redroom.com](http://redroom.com) to buy his book: “Will Durst’s Totally Indispensable Guide to the 2012 Election.” And [willdurst.com](http://willdurst.com) to find out about stand- up performances. Such as: Saturday August 18th at Angelica’s Bistro in Redwood City. Also: every Tuesday, Elect to Laugh! @ The Marsh, San Francisco. Only TWELVE, 12, shows left. [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org).

## WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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# City College is OK

By Jonathon Farrell

The accreditation of City College of San Francisco, which was initially reported as dire, may be overblown. Cited with 14 violations to its accreditation status by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, CCSF was told to meet the recommendations or have its accreditation taken away.



As the largest community college in the State of California, CCSF has a collective student body of over 90,000, providing credit and non-credit courses.

John Rizzo, president of the Board of Trustees for CCSF, responded to the 14 recommendations, “some are fiscal, some are administrative, CCSF has a ‘middle management issue’ which we are going to correct.” Yet he emphasized that while CCSF is mandated to present its required academic and mission statement plans by Oct of 2012, “City College is not closing, we are not even on the brink of closing,” he said.

Emergency meetings were held, like the “Town Hall Meeting” on July 9, where over 350 people showed up to express concerns. They gathered at the LGBT Center on Market Street to rally support for the college, which has been serving the educational needs of the City for more than 70 years.

Supervisor Eric Mar helped to convene the meeting and told the Observer that he considers the situation very serious, even though the college went through this once before back in 2006. The meeting on July 9 and “follow up meetings that were held shortly thereafter were important,” said Mar, “because the college needs to be rallied in support and helped through this crisis.”

Mar noted that as a “vital bridge to four-year universities,” City College must not let this threat of the loss of accreditation discourage students from pursuing their educational goals. Mar also noted the students, and the efforts of interim Chancellor Pamela Fisher, are determined to get through this. Mar pledged his support to do as much as he can to resolve the situation. And, Rizzo said “The State Budget has torn away 17 million dollars in funding last year. The State is systematically de-funding public education.”

Rizzo pointed out that while CCSF went out of its way to downsize to

accommodate a budget deficit by cutting 25 percent of its administrative elements, the Accreditation Board “wants us to spend more money on administration,” and by that, Rizzo clarified, “executive administration.”

He also wanted to clarify that the recent reports in media such as the *SF Chronicle* and *Examiner* that City College is in a dire situation and may be forced to close, “they are wrong,” said Rizzo. But Mar disagreed with Rizzo. As a former teacher at SF State University and a school board member, Mar said he is familiar with the accreditation process and the recommendations should be taken seriously.

Whether or not the accreditation is strictly hinging upon fiscal matters, the quality of education and the standards City College maintains are very high. Other sources indicated that the issue is not about the quality of the education, or the dedication of faculty; it is about the budget. Seeking more taxation through a parcel tax, and other measures to be placed on the November ballot, are being certainly part of every discussion.

As the largest community college in the state—with over eight satellite campuses throughout the city—a bureaucracy and budget issue is always a concern. Yet the question to ask is “why so now?” And, why take such an extreme measure? Taking away accreditation would impact thousands of students and would cause considerable hardship on a very much-needed public education system. “We are currently working on the recommendations that the Accreditation Board set forth, we will have a required plan in place, and will, by the Oct. 15 deadline have several items on the list completed,” said Rizzo, confidant CCSF will actually be ahead of schedule by that time.

*Jonathan Farrell is a free-lance San Francisco reporter.*

## Lake Merced Mess (Cont. from p. 2)

SFPUC recently took back responsibility for managing the PRGC lease and gave PRGC a notice of eviction after PRGC failed to agree to a badly needed updated lease agreement. But even more recently SFPUC has strangely backed off of its plans to evict PRGC, possibly on the theory that having PRGC continuing to pay over \$4,000 a month in rent is sufficient motivation to keep the gun club around while the parties tried to figure out where the \$10 million for clean up will come from. Or maybe the visit to PRGC late last year by Mayor Lee somehow played a part in SFPUC’s decision to slow down the eviction process.

So, who will pay the \$10 million bill? A report that SFPUC staff submitted to its Commissioners in May suggested that SFPUC ratepayers might pick up the tab, presumably because SFPUC owns the property. Why should people paying for their water and sewer service pick up the bill for a problem directly caused by the gross negligence of RPD and its staff? No doubt the liability will ultimately fall on

the City & County of San Francisco. But who within the City actually bears the cost is an intramural issue that should not be quickly dismissed by sticking SFPUC ratepayers with the bill.

If there is any fairness in this generally unfair world we live in, the \$10 million will come out of RPD’s budget. We frequently hear the word “accountability” bandied about these days. Accountability in this case means that the agency that allowed the situation to fester into a \$10 million problem should pick up the tab. But maybe that’s too much to expect. We’re willing to lower our expectations and seriously suggest that, at a minimum, when the SFPUC Commission reconsiders the overall Lake Merced management issue at its November 13 meeting it politely thank RPD for past services and take back full management responsibilities at the lake, just as it recently took back responsibility for administering the PRGC lease. We can’t afford another \$10 million RPD mistake.

*Jerry Cadagan, Co-founder, Committee to Save Lake Merced*

# Wiener Out of Control

## Skullduggery at Board of Supervisors leaves City Hall wide open for corruption to run rampant

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

San Franciscans should not only be alarmed by the now four-month complete shutdown of our local Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), we should pay close attention to how the shutdown of the SOTF came to pass.

As the Observer reported in July in “Who Killed Sunshine?” Supervisor Scott “The Tinkerer” Wiener single-handedly killed open government by shutting down our local Sunshine Task Force, leaving San Franciscans without any citizen oversight of access to public meetings and access to public records, and leaving City Hall wide open for corruption to run rampant. To support his false claim that the Sunshine Task Force engaged in official misconduct of its own and had undermined transparency in government, Wiener failed to provide any evidence and lied at least four times during a full Board of Supervisors meeting on May 22.

**The Board of Supervisors knowingly removed the only disabled member of the SOTF and failed to appoint a disabled replacement, as required by Sunshine Ordinance . . . despite the fact that over half of them are lawyers. . . including Supervisor Scott Wiener, a Harvard Law School graduate and a former SF Deputy City Attorney**



He wrongly claimed on May 22 that the Task Force had exempted itself from the San Francisco Charter, and wrongly claimed the Task Force had said “How dare you shine sunlight on us?” when the Task Force had never claimed any such thing. Wiener claimed he asked for an “audit” of the costs of compliance with the Sunshine Ordinance, when in fact he asked for a “survey.” Wiener also inflated the average number of times City employees had to attend hearings to resolve Sunshine complaints.

**Official Misconduct** Clearly peeved that the Task Force had referred him to the Ethics Commission for official misconduct 1n September, 2011 over the Parkmerced development deal, Wiener engineered kicking physically disabled member Bruce Wolfe off the SOTF on May 22, filling the remaining “member of the public” seats with non-disabled appointees.

Wolfe was the only physically handicapped member of the Task Force, which now has been unable to meet for four months due the lack of a physically disabled member. The Board of Supervisors knowingly removed the only disabled member of the SOTF and failed to appoint a disabled replacement, as required by Sunshine Ordinance Section 67.30(a). The Supervisors did this, despite the fact that over half of them are lawyers who should have known of this legal requirement in the Sunshine Ordinance — including Supervisor Scott Wiener, a Harvard Law School graduate and a former SF Deputy City Attorney.

**Non-Compliance Adjournments** On both June 6 and July 11, the Task Force voted to adjourn its meetings without taking any action on its agendas due to not being in compliance with Sunshine Ordinance Section 67.30(a). The Task Force subsequently cancelled its August meeting for being non-compliant with Section 67.30(a), and will also have to cancel its September meeting, as a disabled

member has not yet been appointed to the Task Force.

**Wiener’s Latest Misinformation**

On July 17, during a hearing to re-appoint Michael Antonini to the Planning Commission, Supervisors David Campos and Jane Kim criticized Wiener’s handling of the SOTF appointments on May 22. Campos and Kim noted that the SOTF members removed on May 22 were ousted because they took a “different approach” than members of the Board of Supervisors may prefer.

**History Re-written** True to form, Wiener didn’t skip a beat, using revisionist history to lie again. Wiener claimed that the actions to remove Task Force members on May 22 were “primarily taken by the Rules Committee and to a lesser extent by the full Board [of Supervisors].” Wiener repeated his remarks that “the Sunshine Task Force was being run in an incompetent manner which violated the City’s Charter,” and that it was the Rules Committee that “recommended removing almost all the [SOTF] incumbents except for one and the [full] Board voted to remove that final incumbent. So the majority of the removing happened before [the nominations] got to the full Board,” Wiener testified.

This is patently untrue, and Wiener’s revisionist history-making.

First, the Rules Committee forwarded a recommendation to re-appoint Member Wolfe, and it was, indeed, the full Board that overturned the Rules Committee recommendation, the lie being that the full Board did not play a “lesser extent” role, they played a very aggressive role under Wiener’s insistence to remove Wolfe.

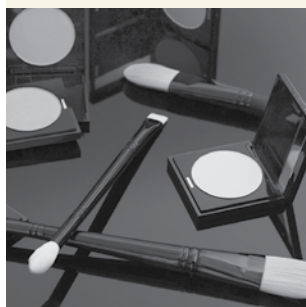
Second, of the 10 vacancies on the Sunshine Task Force considered on May 22, only half (five) were new appointees. Wiener incorrectly claimed on July 17 the remaining five were removed by Rules,

Cont. p. 7



Last Sunshine Task Force: Suzanne Manneh, Allyson Washburn, Vice Chair Bruce Wolfe with guide dog Lady, Jay Costa, Richard Knee, Jerry Threat (City Atty), Chair Hope Johnson and SOTF Administrator Andrea Ausberry





# STEP OUT *in style*

EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF FASHION

**Sunday, September 30**

**Noon - 4 pm**

Center Court

## **Veggie Chic Creative Fashions**

Runway fashion show featuring fresh fashions created by local designers.

- retailer discounts
- giveaways
- music
- and more!



Wiener (Cont. from p. 5)

since one member (Wolfe) was actually recommended for re-appointment by Rules, and the other four were continued to the call of the Rules Committee's chair. **"Different Approach" Proviso** Indeed, several of the Supervisors expressed concern on July 17 that removing appointees such as Antonini or Wolfe from boards and commissions based solely on whether the appointees exercise a "different approach" than would the Board of Supervisors will open a can of worms. Indeed, what seems to annoy *"The Tinkerer"* Wiener the most is that, while the Board of Supervisors can review or modify decisions of the Planning Commission, the Board has no authority to review or modify decisions made by the Sunshine Task Force.

How Did We Get Here?

On Thursday, May 17, 2012, the Rules Committee considered the nominations of 23 applicants for appointment to 10 of the Sunshine Task Force's 11 seats. Following testimony and debate, the Rules Committee forwarded to the full Board of Supervisors the names of six applicants recommended for appointment to six of the SOTF's seats, including Bruce Wolfe for Seat 8, the seat Wolfe has held for a number of years. For unknown and unstated reasons — but most likely at the Wiendr's request — Supervisor Mark Farrell introduced a motion on May 17 to "divide" the recommendations for Wolfe's appointment from the other five recommendations; but Wolfe was recommended separately for re-appointment.

The Rules Committee also recommended to place appointment of four other SOTF seats to the "Call of the Chair," continuing those appointments to a future Rules Committee meeting when its chairperson schedules a subsequent hearing to finalize the four remaining appointments.

The SOTF appointments were first received on May 9, and assigned to the Rules Committee for a hearing eight days later on May 17. The full Board considered the Rules Committee recommendations during a Committee Report on May 22, when Wiener engineered overturning the Rules Committee recommendation to re-appointment Wolfe — throwing Wolfe off the Task Force, as the Westside Observer reported in our July issue.

**Wiener's Crony Appointment** Wiener's nominee to replace Bruce Wolfe was Todd David, who appears to have had no qualifications to serve on the Sunshine Task Force. Indeed, Mr. David's application listed no qualifications to serve. Mr. David's Form 700, Statement of Economic Interests — a document required as part of SOTF's application process — failed to include the pre-printed form, Schedule B, Interests in Real Property. Instead, Mr. David submitted a written statement in lieu of Schedule B in which he neglected to report the appraised value of a multi-family residential property he owns at 384 Eureka Street appraised at \$2.1 million, and neglected to report rental income he receives from the multi-unit property.

Notably, although the Rules Committee had only considered David's typed statement, rather than the required Schedule B, the Rules Committee did not recommend Mr. David for appointment to the Task Force. It was Wiener who chose to substitute Todd David in place of the Rules Committee's recommended appointee, Bruce Wolfe.

**Complaints** Following a Complaint to the Board of Supervisors that it should not have accepted a typed statement in lieu of the Schedule B, a Board clerk replied that it would be disclosed only if Mr. David submitted the actual Schedule B to the Ethics Commission; the Board's clerk appeared unwilling to ask Mr. David to re-submit the required form.

On a complaint filed with the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) regarding Mr. David's substitution of a typed statement in lieu of Schedule B. The FPPC determined David had violated California's Political Reform Act by failing to disclose his interests in real property and issued a warning letter to Mr. David

on August 22, after he submitted the proper Schedule B. **More of Mr. David's Forgetfulness**

During a Board hearing on his appointment to SOTF, David stated that "There's nothing more important for government than to be transparent so that the voters who have elected you know that you're making really good decisions."

David's "transparency" seems to be entirely opaque. In addition, there were a number of other oddities on his application to the SOTF, and his responses to transpar-



Disabled Task Force Vice-Chair Bruce Wolfe with his guide dog Lady, joins the audience at the Task Force meeting after his removal on charges cooked-up by Supervisors Wiener and Farrell.

ency questions are troubling. **Discrepancy** When asked why his application hadn't indicated that the California Secretary of State suspended "TSD Capital, LLC's" (Todd Stuart David Capital) privileges to operate as a business entity in California in December 2011 for failure to meet franchise tax requirements because he failed to file a return or failing to pay taxes, David responded only that he needed to speak with the Secretary of State about this "discrepancy," since David claims he filed a "final" tax return for his TSD Capital business "three or four years ago" dissolving that business. Why the State took action in December 2011, and Mr. David is only now learning that a "discrepancy" exists with State records is curious, at best.

**Can't Recall** When asked why he submitted his application on April 27, he couldn't recall. The date April 27 is significant as being the last date of any SOTF appointee's term, and the date on which previous member's appointments were scheduled to end.

**Insider Maneuver** When asked why he faxed his SOTF application to Supervisor Wiener's fax machine, instead of the Clerk of the Board, David lamely claimed he had Wiener's fax number handy, and had asked Wiener's staff to just walk his application down the hall to the Clerk of the Board. Why did David seek Wiener's intervention, when Wiener doesn't sit on the Board's Rules Subcommittee?

Notably, Wiener does sit on the Board's Land Use and Economic Development Subcommittee, which subcommittee may be asked in the future for a land use change to convert a parking lot in Noe Valley into a mini-park to prevent the parking lot being sold and turned into condos. Mr. David serves as the president of Resident's for Noe Valley Town Square, an organization planning to secure a \$2 million Open Space Funds commitment from the City's Recreation and Parks Department. Asked if anyone is hoping that by Mr. David serving on the SOTF it may help the Resident's for Noe Valley Town Square secure the \$2 million in Open Space Funds, he responded that "the project will or will not receive funding base [sic] on its own merits."

**"I don't recall"** When asked why he hadn't listed several of his civic affiliations on his SOTF application — as Executive Director of edMatch, and as a steering

committee member of Parents PAC (a political action committee) — David replied "I don't recall" why he had omitted both affiliations from his application, calling into question whether Mayor Ed "I Don't Recall" Lee is now coaching others on how to use former Mayor Willie Brown's "I don't recall" line of defense.

Parallels to the Mirkarimi Case

On August 16, the Ethics Commission deliberated its findings against Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi. Troublingly, Mirkarimi's lawyer David Waggoner noted that the Ethics Commission had not sustained in full any of the six charges in the amended charging document with which Mayor Ed Lee eventually charged Mirkarimi. Waggoner noted that the Ethics Commission had instead substituted some sort of a single hybrid charge that it made up on the spot on August 16, combining portions of separate charges that weren't completely sustained into a fresh new charge that surfaced just seconds before Ethics concluded its deliberations, a new charge Mirkarimi hadn't even been aware of during the Ethics Commission's months-long kangaroo court.

Waggoner also noted that if the Ethics Commission rejected some of the counts against Mirkarimi, by the clear language of the Charter, the Commission wouldn't be sustaining all of the charges, and if Ethics wasn't going to sustain all of the initial charges, then the Commission couldn't recommend Mirkarimi be removed, because the Charter's clear language doesn't give the Ethics Commission the option to pick and choose among some charges, but not other charges.

**Grave Concerns** To his credit, Ethics Commission president Benjamin Hur was the lone dissenting vote against finding Mirkarimi guilty of official misconduct. Hur indicated he had "grave concerns" that overly-broad interpretations of which behavior constitutes official misconduct may give mayors a "strong tool" — and perhaps free license — to attempt to remove political opponents inappropriately.

The parallels between the Mirkarimi case and the SOTF appointments are striking: Unsupportable and false accusations were simply tossed out by Mayor Lee against Mirkarimi as they were by Supervisor Wiener against Wolfe to see if they would "stick." Then, both the Ethics Commission (in Mirkarimi's case) and the full Board of Supervisors (in the Bruce Wolfe case) simply made up processes along the way to wrongly remove political opponents.

It's a sad state of affairs when complaints have to be filed with the FPPC to obtain accurate Form 700 Statements of Economic Activity from SOTF appointees. It's also sad that another member of the community had to file a complaint against Supervisor Wiener with the State Bar of California for possible violations of ethical codes of conduct required of lawyers. The State bar complaint involves the SOTF's September 3, 2011 official misconduct finding referred to San Francisco's Ethics Commission regarding Wiener's role in the Parkmerced development deal. The complaint asks the State bar to investigate whether Wiener violated Business and Professional Code sections 6128 and 6068 that prohibit all lawyers in California from providing false statements and prohibits all forms of deceit (including selective presentation of incomplete facts).

While many — including Bruce Wolfe — try to do the right thing to protect the rights of citizens to know what our government is up to, there are powerful forces and people such as Wiener for whom truth and transparency appear to be inconvenient, and who may prefer to deny access to either. Now is the time to pay attention, and demand that the Board of Supervisors reappoint. Wolfe to the SOTF immediately so the Sunshine Task Force can resume citizen oversight of City Hall.

*Monette-Shaw is an open-government accountability advocate, a patient advocate, and a member of California's First Amendment Coalition. He received the Society of Professional Journalists-Northern California Chapter's James Madison Freedom of Information Award in the Advocacy category in March 2012. Feedback: mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.*

Quentin Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

taxation on an individual business basis. Proposition 39 is meritorious in principle, but rather than deposit the estimated \$500,000,000 of annual increased corporate income taxes into the state general fund, the increased taxes will be devoted specifically to alleged energy efficiency and non-polluting energy activities. If you are a multi-millionaire, you can underwrite an initiative tax measure and decide on the special fund purpose for which the increased taxes will pay. It's no wonder governing California rationally becomes more difficult after every state election and the deceitful state budget isn't balanced.

The *San Francisco Bay Guardian* since its inception over 40 years ago has furnished readers and the commonweal a source of debate and thought over local government, taxation, real estate development, public office integrity, drug legalization, criminal law and, yes, outcroppings of the nanny state. One infers from the

*Bay Guardian* that a perfect San Francisco pictorially should reflect people riding the MUNI for free, smoking marijuana, maybe even trading stashes of same, living in taxpayer-subsidized apartments with vegetable gardens front and back. Even for great intellectual theorists, however, a recent *Bay Guardian* editorial demanding increases in the neighborhood parking charges for the good of MUNI riders demonstrated an elemental lack of reasoning. The *Guardian* opined last month that residential parking permit rates should be doubled and the revenue applied to defer the MUNI deficit, arguing that parking spaces, even in residential neighborhoods, constitute "free parking," a privilege for vehicles to which owners aren't entitled. Ignored is the fact that those streets were financed by vehicle drivers! Their gasoline taxes (18 cents to the State, 18.4 cents to the Federal government) built and maintain those streets, a logical example of user fees for public structures. Parking meters were invented and installed beginning in the

late 1930's for the sole purpose of motivating motorists in commercial areas to execute their shopping and other business quickly to allow more customers nearby parking. Parking meters were not designed as income-producers. Motorists had already paid for the streets on which parking meters were located. Nanny Government, however, dictates that all is fair in the taxation war to eliminate automobiles in favor of public transit, much of which itself is subsidized by sales taxation on the 18 cents per gallon State gasoline tax. Let's see what our nine District 7 Supervisorial candidates, of whom I have endorsed two (Joel Engardio and F.X. Crowley) say about this MTA aggrandizement. (Remember the iniquitous "ranked choice voting" scheme allows a vote for three candidates.) That's civilization in 2012 San Francisco.

*Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7*



Extra Money to Save for Retirement

Chances are you would like to be able to save more money each month toward your retirement or other financial goals. Who couldn't use a little more? Given the reality of lower interest rates and investment returns that many have experienced in recent years, simply saving more money is the key to building a sufficient nest egg for retirement. But unfortunately, it's not so simple to come up with the extra cash to sock away.



...decide to set aside another \$100 per month for your retirement, it amounts to \$3.33 per day. If you'd like to be more aggressive and save an extra \$500 per month, you would need to set aside \$17 per day or about \$120 each week. In some cases, saving these manageable amounts daily can add up – and lead to a more secure financial future.

It may be challenging, but not impossible. Start by looking at it this way: if you decide to set aside another \$100 per month for your retirement, it amounts to \$3.33 per day. If you'd like to be more aggressive and save an extra \$500 per month, you would need to set aside \$17 per day or about \$120 each week. In some cases, saving these manageable amounts daily can add up – and lead to a more secure financial future. Here are a few savings opportunities to consider:

Refinancing your mortgage

If the equity position in your home is favorable and you are paying interest on your mortgage at a rate that is noticeably higher than today's low rates, refinancing could save you a significant amount on your mortgage. The way to benefit the most from refinancing is not to increase your spending on other things, but to invest each dollar saved in a retirement plan, or to help you fund other financial goals.

Changing your tax withholding

According to the IRS, as of the end of April 2012, the average tax refund paid on a 2011 tax return was \$2,700. If you are consistently receiving a sizable refund and don't anticipate major changes in your income or deductions claimed on a tax return, you can adjust the amount withheld from your paycheck. Talk to your employer about completing a new W-4 form, and put your bigger paycheck to good use.

Reducing gas costs

With gas prices hovering around \$3 to \$4 or more per gallon, it's become more expensive to drive. Cut back on unnecessary driving and consider finding alternative ways to get to work such as public transit. Walk and bike more to nearby places. More careful use of vehicles could generate \$50 to \$100 extra dollars each month.

Managing your food budget

Food can be one of the biggest expenses for a family. Better meal planning can help you stretch your grocery dollars by reducing the amount of food

you throw out and the number of times you pay for meals at restaurants. In addition, think about other ways to cut back, such as eating fewer lunches out during the week, or cutting back on expensive coffee drinks that can easily add up.

Identifying home expenses you can live without

Many of us pay exorbitant bills for services like cable or satellite TV without actually using the service enough to justify the expense. Consider whether a movie rental service might be a cheaper alternative. Explore whether there are cheaper ways to access phone service than what you pay now. A little frugality now could make a difference in the future.

Making a big difference over time

Nobody will claim that saving an extra \$5 here or there will create instant financial security. But a patient, consistent strategy of saving and investing more for your retirement or other financial goals can truly add up.

If you can save an extra \$100 per month and invest it in a tax-deferred IRA or workplace retirement plan earning an average annual return of seven percent per year, that money would accumulate to a before-tax value of:

- \$17,409 in ten years
- \$52,394 in 20 years
- \$122,699 in 30 years.

If you increase your contribution to \$300, it would, based on the same return and tax assumptions, grow to a value of approximately \$368,000 in 30 years. Saving an extra \$500 per month with the same assumptions would accumulate \$613,495 in retirement assets in 30 years.

Extra effort now could significantly improve your financial standing in retirement. Consider meeting with a financial advisor to help you get started and explore more saving and investment options.

Brandon Miller, CFP and Joanne Jordan, CFP are financial consultants at Jordan Miller & Assoc., A Private Wealth Advisory Practice of Ameriprise Financial Inc. specializing in helping individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.

Rate the Candidates From Their Own Words

Write-in the alphabetical letter of the candidate who best reflects your opinion. Don't Cheat! Wait to identify the candidate until all the boxes are filled.

1st 2nd 3rd CHOICE

- ☐ ☐ ☐ 1. Parkmerced
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 2. Rod & Gun Club
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 3. Pension Funds
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 4. Infrastructure
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 5. Neighborhood Schools
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 6. Native Plant Areas
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 7. GGP Soccer Field

Find the rest of the survey online. Due to space limitations the complete survey is online only.

1st 2nd 3rd CHOICE (westsideobserver.com)

- ☐ ☐ ☐ 8. Elsbernd
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 9. Compatible Colleagues
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 10. Model Supervisor
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 11. Bonds, Taxes, Fees +
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 12. Payroll or Gross Tax
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 13. Motivation
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 14. Secondary Units
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 15. Redistricting
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 16. Renter's Taxes
- ☐ ☐ ☐ 17. ROTC in Schools

New Supervisor (Cont. from p. 1)

H ☐ The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force found four Supervisors in violation of the Brown Act regarding public rights to open meetings. This decision must be revisited because the carcinogens that will be released impact our health, the animals and our environment.

I ☐ Given the current housing market conditions and the Parkmerced developer's inability to procure financing, I seriously doubt the project will ever break ground. As supervisor, I'm confident I will never have to deal with the issues alluded to.

**Pacific Rod & Gun Club The Pacific Rod & Gun Club property, located on the shores of Lake Merced since the '30s, was leased by RPD and now leases the property from the Public Utilities Commission. Who should pay for the estimated \$10.7 million to clean up the lead bullets and clay ducks: The PUC, the RPD, or the Rod & Gun Club? Would you keep the Pacific Rod & Gun Club in place?**

A ☐ We should consider sharing costs among the three entities. We should negotiate an agreement to preserve the Club because it represents an established and cherished tradition for many families who live in District 7.

B ☐ Pacific Rod and Gun Club: I support the Historic RGC. I believe the cost should be paid for by a combination of the PUC, and RPD.

C ☐ The PR&GC, in 1994, changed the ammunition from lead to steel and the clay ducks from toxic to safe. With help from the PR&GC the City should remove the toxic soil but the problem is not imminent. No!

D ☐ PUC. To pay, R&G would need a 20-year lease at \$50,000 a month. R&G should be allowed to continue in a reduced space with market-rate rent with the proviso that they abate all environmental impacts on an on-going basis.

E ☐ The SFPUC should take total control of the lake and the club should share the clean-up cost. This isn't an immediate problem. The lead is contained and they use non-toxic bullets now. The club should stay if the market demands it.

F ☐ I would decide based on community usage, revenue to the city, and environmental and neighborhood impact. If the cost of cleaning up the by-product is much higher than revenues and community value, I wouldn't recommend renewal. Club pays clean up.

G ☐ No response from the candidate.

H ☐ All parties involved with the property should with the gun club paying the majority. The homeowners should not bear the cost of the clean-up of this facility. I think the voters should decide on keeping the gun club open.

I ☐ It's pretty clear to me the gun club is responsible for the lead contamination of the soil at its Lake Merced location and should pay for the clean-up before a new lease is negotiated with the City.

**2. Pension Funds As the cost of SF's pension fund and health care mandates continue to increase should union members be asked to contribute an even higher percentage of their income to offset these expenses? As is currently negotiated, should safety**

**employees receive pay increases equal to the increases that they will have to contribute or should they lose these matching pay increases?**

A ☐ The Memorandum of Understanding between the city and its employees regarding these issues has been reached and extends two more fiscal years. All city employees are contributing more to health care to help offset the increased cost. Unless there is a fiscal emergency, I am opposed to revisiting a contract that has been negotiated and ratified by both parties.

B ☐ Yes, because the path we are on is not sustainable. We are going broke as over \$800M (11% of the budget) will soon go to pensions. City employees must pay more for their benefits-just like the private sector- or our system will falter.

C ☐ There is a need for equivalency between the public and private sector regarding benefits. This does not exist today. Public benefits need to be paid for increasingly by the employees that benefit directly from their retirement or healthcare benefits.

D ☐ Yes. We have to figure out a model that insures the health of contractual, in-place pensions and reduces unsustainable future obligations. All options, without exception, should be examined and negotiated between the City and the affected parties.

E ☐ Local public pension liabilities threaten a Greece-like crisis at home. Our assumed percentage returns are woefully off. Public-sector workers should pay more for benefits others don't enjoy. Safety employees are heroes who deserve generous pay, but we have reached the limit.

F ☐ As government is evolving to meet 21st Century challenges, public pensions have not kept stride. Pension reform needs to happen and I'll meet with the City's labor partners to negotiate how to reach our end goal – a sustainable pension system.

G ☐ No response from the candidate.

H ☐ This question does not fairly represent the issue. It's ambiguous.

I ☐ As recently reported by the Civil Grand Jury, San Francisco is facing a serious shortfall in funding city workers' pensions, a situation that threatens the economic well-being of our city. Tax corporations to make-up the shortfall, not workers

**3. Infrastructure Why should homeowners have to pay for City infrastructure with General Obligation Bonds when they have already paid for these deferred services with taxes?**

A ☐ They shouldn't. In an ideal world, we should be able to pay for fixing deferred services with taxes. But if the city's infrastructure is crumbling, citizens should have the option of voting assessments as needed to fix what is broken.

B ☐ Homeowners have already paid for services that have not been delivered. Any new burdens should be borne by all residents of the City in order of fairness.

C ☐ Home owners should not have to pay for infrastructure with General Obligation Bonds. Home owners and renters could both pay for these services by an increase in sales taxes.

D ☐ Maintaining infrastructure is critical and General Obligation Bonds shouldn't

Cont. p. 14

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## WHISTLEBLOWERS / Dr. Maria Rivero & Dr. Derek Kerr

### Retaliation

In 2012, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners issued a “Report to the Nations on Occupational Fraud and Abuse.” They found that 5% of a typical organization's revenue is lost to fraud. Government is especially vulnerable, rating second among 23 industries surveyed. Whistleblowers catch three times as many frauds as any other form of detection. Most whistleblowers are employees.

**“You will surely suffer some level of harassment or retribution for blowing the whistle because bureaucracies instinctively tend to eliminate anything perceived as a threat.”**

Meanwhile, the Government Accountability Project, an advocacy group providing legal aid to 5,000 whistleblowers over 35 years warns:

“You will surely suffer some level of harassment or retribution for blowing the whistle because bureaucracies instinctively tend to eliminate anything perceived as a threat. Academic studies confirm that more than 90% of whistleblowers report subsequent retaliation.”

Other surveys in various settings show retaliation rates between 22% and 38%, but experts agree that reprisals have increased despite laws prohibiting them. Studies show that retaliation is more likely when the reported wrong-doing involves losses over \$100,000 and when the misconduct is routine. Although San Francisco's Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code includes “Protection of Whistleblowers,” City whistleblowers are praised on paper but punished in practice.

On 7/24/2012 the City agreed to pay over \$1 million to settle two whistleblower retaliation lawsuits. As reported in the May 2012 Westside Observer, 911 Call-Center supervisor Maura Moylan, and dispatcher Anne Raskin, reported supervisory misconduct within the Department of Emergency Services in 2009. Reprisals ensued and escalated. Unaware of the City's Whistleblower



Program (SFWP), they consulted a lawyer. They sued in Federal Court in October 2010 (Case # C10-04700-TEH). The City Attorney fought them every step of the way. Almost two years later, a Jury awarded them \$262,000 for retaliation and harassment. The post-verdict settlement, including legal fees, was \$762,000. Not included is the cost of City Attorney hours in this 2-year legal battle.

Similarly, Recreation & Parks Ranger Michael Horan received \$250,000 for the retaliation he experienced. According to Matt Smith's 7/19/12 article in The Bay Citizen, Horan had exposed favoritism and overtime abuse in the Park Patrol Division since 2008. The City's Human Resources Department failed to fix the problems, so he went to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The EEOC substantiated his complaints, but the City Attorney dismissed them. Horan sued in Superior Court in September 2009 (Case # CGC-09-492910), then Federal Court (Case # CV-10-01383). As in the Moylan & Raskin case, the City Attorney vigorously defended management wrongdoers against employee whistleblowers.

Perhaps retaliation was better handled when the Whistleblower Program was in the Mayor's Office from 1989

Cont. p. 18



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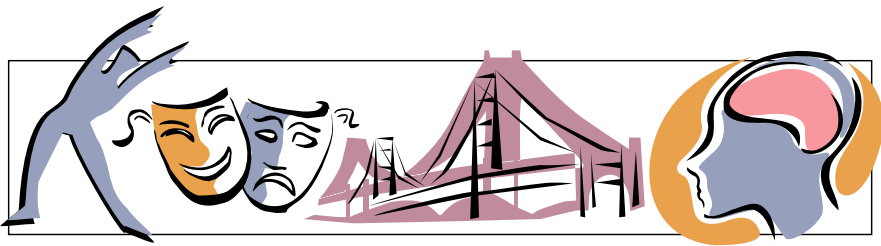


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Info Session II/Oct 9

Noon-1pm, Main Campus, Creative Arts Building



Fall Session II Preview/Oct 11

1:30-4pm, Downtown Campus, Sixth Floor

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To make reservations please call the Cliff House Gift Shop at 415-666-4006. For more information visit [www.cliffhouse.com/history/Johns\\_Walk.html](http://www.cliffhouse.com/history/Johns_Walk.html)

The Lands End Lookout

Be sure to visit the Lookout Cafe at the new Lands End visitor center.

Operated by the Cliff House team, the cafe serves a delicious selection of locally sourced grab-and-go items including the famous *It's It* originally for sale at *Playland at the Beach*.

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## AROUND THE TOWN

COMINGS AND GOINGS • By Mitch Bull

**L**abor Day has come and gone and the autumn season is nigh upon us. We have two new restaurants that are in varying stages of opening on West Portal Avenue. Potrero Hill's own Goat Hill Pizza has opened at the site formerly occupied by the West Portal Bakery. Sad to see, but their windows were damaged by a graffiti attack not even a week after opening. We wish them a long and prosperous tenure on the avenue. Across the street, a new restaurant serving Greek cuisine, Orexi, is in the final stages of construction and will be opening soon, as the owners have completely gutted and remade the former Round Table Pizza location.

"Hollywood" came to the neighborhood last week as Director Woody Allen chose the corner of Claremont and Ulloa as a locale for a scene in his "yet to be named" film currently being filmed in San Francisco. Scenes were shot in and around the corner building on August 27th and 28th and all in all it looked to be pretty seamless, as the streets remained open, albeit with lots of trucks loaded with equipment parked up and down Ulloa. The security guys were all local San Franciscans and were nice enough, although I couldn't wrangle my way inside for a photo. I did catch a glimpse of actresses Cate Blanchett and Sally Hawkins during my time at the location. (No, I didn't get recruited as an extra...)

I did run into District 7 Supervisor candidate F.X. Crowley outside his campaign HQ. He mentioned that he was involved in coordinating the union contracts for the film crew for the movie shoot in his former role as the Business Manager for Local 16 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.). He too was headed over to the set to take a look.

Local author and historian Woody LaBounty, founder of the Western Neighborhoods Project ([www.outsidelands.org](http://www.outsidelands.org)), has a new book out entitled Ingleside Terraces – San Francisco Racetrack to Residence Park. It's a wonderful look back at the racetrack, the progressive era, and eventually a new neighborhood. Much like his first book, Carville-by-the-Sea: San Francisco's Streetcar Suburb, the book is detailed with great photographs and narratives of our local history. The book is available at BookShop West Portal, Ocean Avenue Cyclery, and Franciscan Hobbies. You can also pick it up online at [inglesidebook.com](http://inglesidebook.com).

Looking ahead, the fall promises to be an exciting time with the upcoming District 7 Candidates Forum coordinated by the West of Twin Peaks Central Council, the election of several new Supervisors in the City, as well as a multitude of California Propositions and the contest to see who wins the White House.

Note: There was no WOTPCC meeting in August. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 24th at 7:30 at the Forest Hills Clubhouse.

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop me a line at [mitch@westsideobserver.com](mailto:mitch@westsideobserver.com) and share your thoughts. Check out [www.WestsideObserver.com](http://www.WestsideObserver.com), or on Twitter @ [Twitter!@WestS\\_Observer](https://twitter.com/Twitter!@WestS_Observer) and Facebook.

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**September**

**EVERY • SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET**

Farmers Market | Every Sun | 9 am–1pm | Stonestown back parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Avenue @ Winston)

**SPECIAL NIGHTS AT QUE SYRAH**

Happy Hour Every Tues | 4–8 pm | Que Syrah. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off of each bottle of wine consumed at the store. 230 West Portal Ave 731.7000  
Tapas Every Thu & Fri | 5:30–9 pm

**EVERY • THURSDAY–NIGHTLIFE**

6 pm–10 pm | Every Thu night, the Academy of Sciences is transformed into a lively venue filled with music, provocative science, mingling, and cocktails. GG Park/Tickets \$12 (\$10 members). calacademy.org/nightlife.

**EVERY • FRIDAY NIGHT**

Friday Night Jazz Fri | 7–11 pm | Cliff House, Balcony Lounge – 1 Seal Rock. Performances: www.cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html

**EVERY • FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE DEYOUNG**

5–8:45 pm | Live music, poetry, films, dance, tours, and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making for children and adults. de Young Museum, GG Park. www.deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/calendar/category/89

**TUE • FREE DAY CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS**

**4** Tue Sep 4 | 9 am–4:30 pm | First Tuesday of each month is free at the Conservatory of Flowers, Special Exhibit fees, if any still apply. JFK Dr. GGate Park.

**WED • POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

**5** Wed Sep 5 | 6–7:30 pm | First Wed of each month to advise the captain about crime and other quality of life issues at Taraval Station, 2345 24th Ave.

**THU • TARAVAL • PARKSIDE MERCHANTS**

**6** Thu Sep 6 | 7–8:30 pm | Meet up with your fellow merchants of Taraval St. and Parkside. Taraval Police Station,

2345 24th Ave. First Thursdays. Contact: Yumi Sam: YumiSam@allstate.com

**THU • AUTHOR LAURIE KING**

**6** Thu Sep 6 | 6–7 pm | The award-winning novelist will read from her latest *Garment of Shadows*, Mary Russell and her husband, Sherlock Holmes—the couple races against time to prevent an explosive catastrophe. BookShop West Portal, 80 West Portal, 564-8080.

**TUE • GREATER WEST PORTAL-GWPNA**

**1** Tue Sep 11 | 7:30 pm | West Portal Playground Clubhouse, 139 Lenox Way. First Tuesdays. The “Western Heart” of SF. gwpna.org

**THU • SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

Thu Sep 13 | 6 pm | USF presents Education as a Human Right, a panel discussion with school board candidates. Fromm Hall, USF Campus, Parker at McAllister. Free.

**THU • AUTHOR ADAM LAZARUS**

**1** Thu Sep 13 | 7 pm | Joe Montana and Steve Young’s battle both on and off the field for the right to lead the San Francisco 49ers. BookShop West Portal, 80 West Portal, 564-8080.

**THU • SUNSET DIST COALITION MEETING**

**1** Thu Sep 13 | 7 pm–9 pm | Meets 2nd Thu each month. Info or to be added to the agenda please call Susan at 415.586.8103 or ssuval@sbcglobal.net Taraval Police Station, 2345 24th Ave

**MON • SUNSET-PARKSIDE MEETING**

**1** Mon Sep 17 | 6 pm | SPEAK aims to educate Sunset/Parkside residents on public safety, zoning, planning etc. 3201 Ulloa St. (Grace Lutheran) 3rd Mon each month. speaksanfrancisco@yahoo.com

**TUE • COMMUNITY SAFETY MEETING**

Tue Sep 18 | 6 pm | Taraval District

**1** Police 3rd Tue of the month. Meet with Captain Curtis Lum. Minnie & Lovie Ward Rec. Ctr., 650 Capitol 759-3100.

**WED • GET OVER PHOBIAS**

**1** Wed Sep 19 | 7–8:30 pm | Get Over it! Experience the Joy of Speaking Up with Special Guest, Michael Neuendorff, Public Speaking Coach. Florey’s Books, 2120 Palmetto Ave., Pacifica

**THU • AUTHOR MICHAEL J. COOPER**

**2** Thu Sep 20 | 7 pm | Meet the 2011 Indie Publishing Grand Prize Winner, who will read from his thrilling new historical fiction novel that takes place in the world’s most coveted city. BookShop West Portal, 80 West Portal, 564-8080.

**SUN • COPS & JOGGERS**

**2** Sun Sep 23 | 10 am–2 pm | SK Fun Run/Walk-Picnic benefitting SF Safe. Peacock Meadow, GG Park • \$45/35 early registration - includes picnic & t-shirt. Rib Cook Off \$15, Picnic \$10. sfsave.org/copsandjoggers 673-SAFE.

**MON • WOTP CENTRAL COUNCIL**

**2** Mon Sep 24 | 7:30 pm | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets on 4th Monday each month for those interested in local issues. Forest Hill Clubhouse, 381 Magellan.

**MON • SHARP**

**2** Mon Sep 24 | 7 pm | Sunset Heights Assoc. of Responsible People. Last Mon each month. 1736 9th Ave. (Moraga)

**THU • OMI-NIA**

**2** Thu Sep 27 | 7 pm | Ocean View - Merced Heights - Ingleside Neighbors in Action meets the last Thur each month. Contact: maryharris\_dist11@msn.com

**Have a local event? Contact:**  
**editor@westsideobserver.com**



**Protect Golden Gate Park  
And Ocean Beach**

*Park Advocates Fight on to Protect Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach!*  
Request for a Re-hearing of the Appeal of the Coastal Zone Permit to be heard at

**SF Board of Appeals  
September 12, 2012, 5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 416**

The Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance, SF Ocean Edge, and other appellants first filed an Appeal of the Coastal Zone Permit on June 7th, 2012, and that Appeal was heard and denied on August 1, 2012. The Alliance has asked the BOA for a rehearing on their Appeal. The BOA will consider this request on September 12th. You are welcome to write to the BOA or come to the hearing.

If the Alliance does not prevail at the BOA, then they will appeal to the California Coastal Commission. If you haven’t already, join them as co-appellants—it is free, and there is no other legal obligation. The more folks who join the appeal, the better! Info: www.sfoceanedge.org.

**Ocean Beach Sand Management Project**

The south bound lanes of the Great Highway will be closed during construction hours - Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No night or weekend work will occur. The project is estimated to be completed early September 2012.

Contact Information  
Steve Ortega, NPS Project Manager  
415-561-2841  
goga\_planning@nps.gov



Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

THE BOURNE LEGACY

The franchise continues without Matt Damon, but with Aaron/Kitt (Jeremy Renner) as the new action hero who makes his way from northern Canada to DC. The viewer is thrown into the tale without explanations that don't develop in the first half-hour. Some of the mumbo-jumbo is later explained, but not all. Dr. Marta Shearing: Rachel Weisz works in the lab where she only knows her experimental patients by a number. She soon learns even this has put her life in danger and, luckily for her, Kitt comes to the rescue. Dr. Donald Foite: Zeljko Ivanek runs low on one of his lab supplements and picks up a gun, shooting numerous fellow workers. Marta and Dita: Donna Murphy, survive. For the remainder of the film, Marta and Kitt are on the run; not a second for romance. Marta becomes adept at the muscle-building spy activities, like jumping from rooftops. Their nemesis is Retired Lt. Col. Eric Byer: Edward Norton, in a one-note performance. It's hard to believe the plot revolves around the vitamin supply for the enhanced super agents. Cameos of less than one minute (why did they bother?) include familiar faces from The Bourne Ultimatum (2007): Dr. Albert Hirsch: Albert Finney; Ezra: Scott Glenn; Pam Landry: Joan Allen; and Noah: David Strathairn—plus unbilled Liam Neeson. Director Tony Gilroy also wrote the story and co-wrote the screenplay with his brother Dan. One foot chase and one motorcycle chase are memorable, exciting, and remind one to breathe. Perhaps it would help to see The Bourne Ultimatum first. Continuous thrilling violence. Profanity.

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

Gotham is in danger from evil forces as Bruce Wayne/Batman (Christian Bale) is healing from wounds. Eight years later, Batman must come to the rescue of a city that no longer trusts him. BW's safe is cracked for his finger prints, taken by cat burglar Selina: Anne Hathaway (who has formed an attachment to his mother's jewels), working for ugly muscular hulk Bane: Tom Hardy, whose plans include leveling Gotham. There are a thousand violent criminals locked up since the Dent Act has cleared Gotham of all crime. Returnees include Commissioner Gordon: Gary Oldman, Alfred: Michael Caine, and inventor Fox: Morgan Freeman. New to Gotham are Miranda: Marion Cotillard, who's in charge of investing for Wayne Enterprises, and Foley: Matthew Modine, who'd rather kill Batman than thank him. Bale is excellent as the hero with a failing body. It's rather obvious by the end that enterprising cop-on-the-beat Blake: Joseph Gordon-Levitt will take over the franchise in future. (He's got some pumping up to do first.) Clearly the best picture released so far this year! As good as its Best Picture of 2008 predecessor. Director/co-writer Christopher Nolan

is still at the top of his form as he directs the third of his trilogy. Hans Zimmer's overpowering score will sweep one up into the horror. Intense violence and action. Sexuality. Profanity.

HOPE SPRINGS

In a last ditch effort to save their disintegrating marriage, a LONG-MARRIED couple, mousy Kay (Meryl Streep) and Arnold (Tommy Lee Jones) go to Maine for the marital self-help therapy pedaled by noted authoritative author Dr. Feld: Steve Carell. Eileen, Kay's supportive best friend, is played by Jean Smart. The humor comes from the couple's discomfort with bananas and other prescribed sexual experiments. Feld talks plainly about things that make the pair blush. Kay is more open to getting their marriage back on track than is Arnold. There are lotsa laughs here, due to the underplaying expertise of the principals. They even learn how to touch each other. David Frankel adeptly directs Vanessa Taylor's script. Rude humor. Profanity.

MAGIC MIKE

Dallas: Matthew McConaughey runs a male stripper club in southern Florida where Magic Mike: Channing Tatum stars at night. During the day, he builds houses. Mike adopts a protégé, younger The Kid/Adam: Alex Pettyfer, and trains him in how to lure the female patrons, to perform for easy money and be part of the party circuit. Mike finds he has a problem when he falls for Adam's sister, Joanna: Olivia Munn. Adam Rodriguez, better known as Eric Delko on Miami Vice, here plays stripper Tito. Steven Soderbergh directs with pizzazz Reid Carolin's screenplay about the revealing backstage life of the strippers who usually wander around in a jock strap. Bare breasts. Bare male buttocks!! Sexual images. Profanity. Drinking. Drug usage.

TOTAL RECALL

Set in the future, there are but two populated areas: Britain and Australia (only a 17-minute commute back and forth!!). The cops look like starship troopers from The Empire Strikes Back and the wet-walls setting is straight out of Blade Runner. The three-breasted hooker is the only recollection from the original Total Recall (1990). Once one gets past those, the story starts unfolding that factory worker Douglas Quaid: Colin Farrell



believes he's been married to Lori: Kate Beckinsale for seven years, but it's only six weeks and his name is really Hauser. When he goes for a mind-trip vacation at Rekall, he finds he has the reactions of a super hero and shoots several people. He's had a recent memory implant so he doesn't remember. Lori has been assigned to him to keep him from remembering Hauser. They have one helluva fight and he leaps from the balcony. He finds an ally in sexy Melina: Jessica Biel when he must run from the police. The supporting cast includes Coahaagen: Bryan Cranston, Harry: Bokeem Woodbine, and Matthias: Bill Nighy. Len Wiseman directs the efforts of seven screenwriters who couldn't do any better. Save your money and rent Blade Runner. Sci-fi Action Violence. Profanity. Sexual content. Brief nudity.

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AT THE THEATER • By Dr Annette Lust and Flora Lynn Isaacson

A CHALLENGING OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD AT PORCHLIGHT

Seated in the beautiful outdoor Redwood Theatre at the Marin Art and Garden Center, the play opens with an Australian aboriginal announcing that we will be viewing a play about dreams. Timberlake Wertenbaker's play about an Australian penal colony putting on a play centers on whether the prisoners' nightmarish incarceration can be transformed through the realization of a dream project.

The play begins in the first British penal colony in New South Wales in 1789 where Lieutenant Ralph Clark is staging the Restoration Comedy The Recruiting Officer to raise the prisoners' morale. The rehearsals of the illiterate inmates and a leading lady about to go to the gallows are disrupted by Clark's fellow officers' insults. These conflicts between the officers and the prisoners are based on true accounts found in journals.

Directed by Ann Brebner and Tara Blau, the 22 roles of prisoners and officers are dynamically interpreted by one half of that amount of talented Bay Area actors. A set with stone gradations is effective and period costumes are well suited to prisoners and officers. The voices projected from this rustic stage could be amplified in some sections.

Adapted from Thomas Keneally's novel *The Playmaker*, the play premiered in 1988 at the Royal Court Theatre, to later receive the Olivier Play of the Year Award and the New York Critics Best Foreign Play Award. Our Country's Good offers a humanistic lesson about how condemned members of society can better their condition through art and creativity. It calls to mind Bay Area projects such as Marin Shakespeare's Lesley Currier's stagings of Shakespeare plays with the prisoners of San Quentin. Porchlight's production magnificently succeeds in communicating the transcendental power of theatre to transform human experience into realms of imagination beyond reality.

Our Country's Good plays until September 8th. Tickets: 415-251-1027 or [porchlight.net](http://porchlight.net). Annette Lust

A SPIRITED NOEL COWARD COMEDY AT CAL SHAKES

California Shakespeare Theatre continues its 39th season with Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, directed by

ACT Associate Artistic Director and Cal Shakes Associate Artist Mark Rucker. Noel Coward has such fun making mischief with marriage and mediums, and Director Mark Rucker never interferes with this enjoyment. His light touch gives the actors freedom to spirit themselves around Annie Smart's spacious, upscale living room to create a delicious play soufflé. Six of Rucker's seven actors are from ACT. Anthony Fusco, a regular at Cal Shakes, plays Charles as a self-absorbed, upper-class, witty novelist. René Augesen portrays Ruth as rather staid and conventional, while Jessica Kitchens is both sexy and kittenish as Elvira. Dominique Lozano as the boisterous Mme Arcati practically steals the show in Katherine Roth's original costumes. Keith Rolston is Dr. Bradman, Melissa Smith is Mrs. Bradman, and Rebekah Brockman is the dim-witted servant Edith.

Much of what makes this production so successful is how well the actors speak. Their British accents are accurate, their diction precise and their voices commanding. Even though Coward wrote *Blithe Spirit* during England's battle scarred year of 1941, this play still feels fresh today.

*Blithe Spirit* will run at California Shakespeare Theatre Aug. 8–Sep. 7 at Bruns Amphitheatre in Orinda. For tickets, call 510-548-9666 or visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org). Coming up at Cal Shakes is Shakespeare's *Hamlet* September 19–October 14, 2012. Flora Lynn Isaacson

ANNIE BAKER'S CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

From the beginning, the audience's curiosity is peaked by the strange title of the play, and even more so when we watch four actors and a coach in exercise clothes (Christine Crook) lying down in a circle in a bare classroom (appropriately designed by Andrew Boyce), each one counting a number. Through this exercise and a following one in which the actors each tell a story of an experience they had, we divine that these are exercises in an acting class. This is verified when Lauren, a sixteen year old rebel, asks "Are we going to be doing any real acting?" And Marty the teacher replies that they are already acting.

As the exercises revolve more around the personal life of each student, including the teacher, we empathize

with such characters as Theresa (Arwen Anderson), a young enthusiastic New York actress who underwent a bad relationship; James, Marty's older husband (L. Peter Callender) and his shaky marriage to Marty; Schultz, (Robert Parsons) a divorced lonely builder of chairs seeking another partner; Lauren (Marissa Keltie), a bright teenager hiding her sharp intelligence behind her bangs, and Marty, (Julia Brothers), an energetic teacher undergoing James' unfaithfulness.

The playwright appears to have three purposes. The first is to present a satire on teaching theatre, which soon resembles drama therapy sessions, which in turn introduce the characters in a spontaneous dramatic action.

Secondly, the playwright purposely abandons abiding by the well-made play, unity of content, character development, and the use of words to develop a dramatic action.

Third, the playwright excludes the conventional use of words to develop the dramatic action and the characterization through movement and periods of silence. The audience is challenged to observe the action or non action visually to grasp what is happening as well as to understand the characters' motivations.

Annie Baker's Obie Award-winning New American Play, co-produced with Encore Theatre in San Francisco and directed by Kip Fagan, introduces us to an original voice in American theatre. The playwright fearlessly abandons the importance of the spoken word in today's theatre to opt for silence and stillness. Will her plays lead to a renewal of twenty-first century theatre to bring about a harmonized betrothal of movement and silence with voice and text?

Circle Mirror Transformation until Sept. 2. Info: 415-388-5208 or [www.marintheatre.org](http://www.marintheatre.org) Annette Lust



Dr. Annette Lust

Flora Lynn Isaacson



New Supervisor Survey(Cont. from p. 8)

be the fallback position for poor administration of budgetary dollars.

**E** ☐ Homeowners shouldn't have to pay for street repair twice (first with taxes and then bonds). City Hall must focus on basics before spending our money on pet projects. Bonds should invest in our future, not provide quick cash to replace wasted funds.

**F** ☐ General obligations bonds are a basic tool that governments all across our state use in order to finance large projects. We have used GO bonds to improve our schools, our libraries, and our parks.

**G** ☐ No response from the candidate.

**H** ☐ City infrastructure is handled like a boondoggle. The issue is accountability and spending in a city with a budget larger than some nations. The city allocates \$640 million to non-profits and we still have people homeless. Why?

**I** ☐ Homeowners shouldn't have to pay any more of their hard-earned money to pay for city infrastructure, since, they are over-taxed as it is. Tax major corporations appropriately since they stand to benefit most from city services

**Neighborhood Schools Should SF children receive a real preference from the SFUSD to attend their neighborhood school rather than zip code districts?**

**A** ☐ Parents should decide on the best school for their children. We must work to have quality schools in every neighborhood. Putting children in zip code districts overlooks 70 percent of families who apply for schools not in their neighborhood.

**B** ☐ Yes, parents should have the right to send their children to the neighborhood school nearest them and not be subject to the current allocation process as dictated by the SFUSD.

**C** ☐ Preference should be provided by parents to have their children attend local neighborhood schools rather than zip code district schools. Zip code district schools tend to be much further away from where families actually live, placing a greater burden on parents.

**D** ☐ Yes.

**E** ☐ We need neighborhood schools. That's how families on the same street get closer. Walking our kids to school means more time at home together not spent commuting across town. Let's focus on making every school great and uplift all neighborhoods.

**F** ☐ SFUSD's actions led to the first consideration of a child's neighborhood in the school assignment process in a decade. The school district can further improve, with a balance between keeping parents in public schools and respecting desegregation court orders.

**G** ☐ Parents should be able to choose their neighborhood school. But we need to work tirelessly for struggling schools in all corners of the City so that parents everywhere will want to send their children to the closest school.

**H** ☐ Children have a right to attend their neighborhood school. There are students living outside the district and this should be addressed. A concerned parent is the best advocate for a child. All children in SF deserve a quality education.

**I** ☐ Having taught in San Francisco public schools for many years, I personally can attest to the fact that students and their families would be best served if they were assigned to their neighborhood schools. Such a policy would develop "community."

**Native Plant Areas What should be done, if anything, about the RPD's Native Area Plant (NAP) programs plans for Mt. Davidson?**

**A** ☐ I support the Miraloma Park Improvement Club's position, which advocates preservation of the forest as an historic, natural, recreational, and aesthetic resource, with full access to the native plant area and new benches in view areas.

**B** ☐ The RPD native plant program is a poorly designed concept that will destroy

what generations have built up beautifully in SF. Its costly and a big waste of tax payers money on and ill conceived idea.

**C** ☐ The Cross on Mt. Davidson is obscured by eucalyptus trees, in 100 years the Cross will be completely covered. The 13 rare and endangered plants growing on San Bruno Mtn. that grew in San Francisco, could to be planted here.

**D** ☐ Modify those elements most opposed to through the EIR process and retain the core, necessary portions that address the preservation and conservation of our open space areas and the rehabilitation of trails in those areas.

**E** ☐ NAP should be curtailed or stopped. Preserving areas where native plants already exist is nice (with private, not tax dollars). Taxes should pay for tree/trail maintenance and safety. But destroying healthy trees just because they're not native goes too far.

**F** ☐ I would pause the program so the community can contribute to a plan with dual goals – preserve native plants AND preserve recreational open space for residents without destroying what exists. Keep our recreational resources to keep families in San Francisco.

**G** ☐ No to NAP. These thousands of healthy trees have decades, perhaps centuries of life ahead of them. They benefit us in numerous ways and removing them will negate those benefits. According to RPD itself, NAP will also increase pesticide/herbicide use.

**H** ☐ Mt. Davidson is symbolic of the founding of the City. I think we should try to preserve the NAP.

**I** ☐ The Native Area Plant programs at Mount Davidson should be supported and expanded to other areas of the city where the benefits will be enjoyed by the communities there, as well.

**GGP Soccer Field Should the Beach Chalet soccer fields in Golden Gate Park remain as natural grass or be converted into a synthetic turf stadium?**

**A** ☐ Synthetic turf stadium. This will triple the available field time and the new lighting will increase public safety and promote family recreation. Look to the success of playgrounds such as South Sunset, Crocker Amazon and Silver Terrace as examples.

**B** ☐ It should always be Natural Grass. Leave Golden Gate Park in its natural beautiful state.

**C** ☐ A question of whether to choose a field of artificial or natural turf, at the Beach Chalet Soccer Field, is best asked to those that play there.

**D** ☐ The combination of easily maintained (cost-effective), environmentally sound, safe to play on fields that will be enjoyed by our youth, older soccer players, and fans compels me to agree with Planning and RPD Commissions that synthetic turf is reasonable.

**E** ☐ Urban parks must prioritize recreation and access, which the turf accomplishes for kids who want more soccer play. However, I want to research the questions other cities have about toxicity, sustainability and long-term cost of the turf versus maintaining real grass.


**F** ☐ My daughters grew up playing soccer here. As a father, I would support the most cost effective long-term solution to preserve this resource. However, we have a fiscal responsibility to identify sufficient funding before committing to any major project.

**G** ☐ No response from candidate.

**H** ☐ There is enough disruption to the environment. The migratory pathway for birds that fly in the region should be considered. Grass should remain on the soccer fields.

**I** ☐ Let the soccer fields in Golden Gate Park remain "natural grass." No artificial turf.

*George Wooding lives in Midtown Terrace. Feedback: wooding@westsideobserver.com*



## SECOND THOUGHTS / By Jack Kaye

# Taming the Human Nature

It has been painful watching the T.V. news. Disregarding the sensationalized or superficially reported stories, many well researched reports can be very depressing commentaries on the state of human nature.

We hear daily of atrocities to which humans are subjecting others. The primary victims are girls and women who are mistreated by their families, husbands, government officials and brutal savages whose lifes' goals are destruction for domination. Recent articles about mistreatment of women in Muslim countries cite mutilation, humiliation, rape, murder and every possible kind of desecration. But there is so much more. There are terrorists blowing themselves up trying to take as many innocent lives with them. There are business people who cheat their customers, husbands who lie to and cheat on their wives, criminals who violate our laws of decency, the abuse of animals in bullfights, in the jungle, at sea and in overcrowded chicken coops. We wage wars that kill and maim and write laws that are cruel and inhumane. Even our religions betray us with shallow theologies and divisiveness, leading to intolerance and violence.

Our human nature must be tamed, but how. Creating cultures and civilizations with laws and philosophies that foster good has been our way of taming our nature, but even they have failed us, leading to greater conflict. What can we create that can bring out our good qualities and make the disruptive ones seem out of place? What have we created for this purpose, as well as for many others?

I can think of one. It took thousands of years, at least 15,000 by some counts, but Man has worked hand in hand with nature to produce a remedy to free our better selves.

We created the modern dog.

It turns out that it doesn't take long to turn a fox, wolf or coyote into a dog. By mating the most docile member of a litter with another, these species become doglike in three generations. Remember, for them one generation can be just a few years. By breeding just for temperament, the offspring change their fur color, their size, shape and their nature. They become domesticated.

But how does taming their wild nature help humans tame theirs?

From their beginning we have needed dogs to help us in our daily lives. When humans were still hunters and gatherers, dogs helped us find our prey and sometimes helped us capture or retrieve them. They helped us when we started raising our own food by herding our livestock and protecting our lives and property. Today, dogs are used to find bombs, identify disease, help the blind walk and bring comfort to the elderly and disabled. But most of all, dogs give us love, unconditional love.

Dogs are not judgmental. They don't respond to people based on physical appearance, financial status, political point of view or social status. Their unconditional love resonates deep within us to ignite the unconditional love that is at the heart of our very nature, and temporarily suspends our fear, which is also at our core.

Scientists have now found a physiological expression for this apparent canine gift. They have found that when humans pet their dogs it increases the level of oxytocin in both. Oxytocin is the same chemical that is produced when a mother nurses her baby and feels a bonding. The oxytocin is the bonding glue. Oxytocin levels are also elevated during intimate human interaction leading to its orgasmic conclusion. Oxytocin in our system makes us open and trusting while the testosterone in us is a counterbalance making us also somewhat leery and aggressive. People with high levels of the former and low ones of the latter tend to be very trusting, easy targets for con men and charlatans.

But dogs are not intent on tricking us. They want their basic necessities met – enough food, water and opportunities to eliminate waste products – and beyond them, the only goal is love and joy.

There are now more than 100 million dogs. There are some 150,000 dogs in San Francisco, more than the number of the city's children. Dogs come in more varieties than do any other species and range in size more than any other. A mature dogs can weigh anywhere from barely two pounds to over 200. So in the same species a dog can be 100 times the size of another. Can you imagine if some adult humans were 100 times the size of other adults?

Dogs are the rare living creatures that were created by Man. We started more than 15,000 years ago the process of making dogs to serve our individual needs. There are hunting dogs that point to the prey and retrieve them when they are killed or who look for animals or people to capture. There are herding dogs that take care of our livestock, be they sheep or cattle. There are dogs that hunt rodents like gophers, mice and rats. There even is a dog, the Kings Charles Cavalier spaniel, created to sit on the king's lap and attract the fleas away from the royal. There are dogs that offer protection, those who are small enough to be carried everywhere, those who can help the blind find their way and even those who bark the whole time their master is gone. There are even dogs that can find bombs, drugs or even disease.

Some anthropologists believe that Man could not have survived without dogs.

But there is one thing wrong with dogs: they get old, suffer and die. Dogs, like all finite things, have a beginning and an end. The beginning is the cause for great joy. The end is cause for unbearable sorrow. It is the death of the innocent. The constant reminder of the cruelty of nature's untamed entropy.

*In memoriam Corky Kaye-Nyne  
9/3/96 to 4/11/12.*

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The Candidate Legend, Identifying Their Alphabetical Designation Is On Page 16.



SHARON THE HEALTH / By Sharon Caren



# Fear and Phobia – Let’s Get Over Them!

In my observation, good communication skills are underrated. How do we get through life with any success if we cannot express our true nature? What I mean by “good communicating” is to speak up in a manner so others can not only hear what was said, but also understand it. We communicate verbally and also through the written word. I’ve worked to develop my skill in writing since 2008 when I began my health column in the Observer. It’s almost easier to write than it is to speak. This may be why our smart phones have texting and email capabilities!

Let’s focus on speaking. We speak to interact with others for specific reasons. As babies, our parents are thrilled with our first words mama and dada. After that, we are left somewhat on our own learning what we learn from those with whom we spend the most time.

Thinking back to high school, I remember having to write English essays, but it was not often included in the courses to get up in front of others to speak. We did raise our hands to ask questions, but it’s not the same. If we did get up in front of the class to give an oral report, I

It is estimated that 75% of all people experience some degree of anxiety or nervousness when speaking in public.

The physical manifestations of panic, fear and anxiety do not promote a healthy life. The body goes into fight or flight mode and changes chemically due to adrenaline secretion. If this lasts for a prolonged period of time, cortisol levels (the death hormone) rise and an acidic environment is created in the body that promotes disease, as well depression and a poor quality of life.

**Glossophobia or speech anxiety is the fear of public speaking or speaking in general. The word is Greek — glossa meaning tongue and phobos — fear or dread. Many only have this particular fear, while others may also have social phobia or social anxiety disorder.**

don’t remember (I’m a baby boomer) having any instruction on how to stand, project the voice, where to look or not look or how to hold my arms and hands in front of a group. We’d be graded only on content, and again, we are back to writing! Where, if ever, did we learn speaking skills – not in K through 12 of my education.

So how does one develop good social or speaking skills? For me it was trial and error because I really wanted to do it. I wasn’t in the majority, however. Many children were afraid and shamed when they could not speak up or perform. This doesn’t really empower anyone at any age.

Glossophobia or speech anxiety is the fear of public speaking or speaking in general. The word is Greek — glossa meaning tongue and phobos — fear or dread. Many only have this particular fear, while others may also have social phobia or social anxiety disorder.

- Symptoms:
- intense anxiety prior to or even the thought of having to verbally communicate with any group.
  - avoidance of events which focus the groups attention on individuals in attendance.
  - physical distress, nausea or feelings of panic in such circumstances.

Other related Phobias:  
Atychiphobia – fear of failure  
Anthropophobia – fear of people  
Gelotophobia – fear of being laughed at  
Panphobia – fear of everything  
Philophobia – fear of love  
Phobophobia – fear of having a phobia  
Sociophobia – fear of social situations  
Scopophobia – fear of being stared at  
If you occasionally get nervous in these situations, it doesn’t mean you have a disorder or a phobia. However, if it gets in the way of everyday functioning, it’s important to seek professional help. There are many therapists (LMFT’s) who can be of tremendous assistance. We are now back to communication, so call me if you’d like a referral.

**Make a Paradigm Shift**  
Paradigms are messages we get from the past that are taken as truths from our childhood, or even from generations past. These messages shape our logic. Logic can be an energetic block when left unchecked or questioned. If we change our perception we can change our life. Yes, we can break out of the old beliefs when we identify where they might have originated and reprogram with new and

empowering belief systems.  
Here are some helpful tips I’ve used to relax and have a more successful presentation:  
Breathing Technique – take a deep breath in through the nose, relax your jaw and exhale through an open mouth. Do this at least 3 to 5 times. Repeat as needed to feel your entire body start to relax.  
Quick Meditation – close your eyes and picture yourself up in front of the group, calm, relaxed and confident. See the crowd smiling and applauding your wonderful talk.  
**Essential Oils – Pure Therapeutic Grade only...**  
Peppermint Oil – may help with laryngitis, sinus inflammation, and calming the throat.  
Lavender – to relax, calm nerves and aid in neck or headaches.  
Valor Oil Blend – to balance the body and to use for promoting courage!

**Find your Joy – just do it!**  
“The more intentional I am in my communications, the more results I’ll get!”  
I was given this quote above by a public speaking coach and inspirational speaker. I strive for it each day in my personal life as well as in business.

As adults, we seek out professionals who can help us attain our personal and business goals. There are organizations we can join to gain more experience and training such as Toastmasters, POWERtalk or Association of Speakers Clubs. Also, the right business coach can actually take us to the next level with one-on-one sessions and group workshops. Believe it or not, it can also be FUN.

If you’d like to explore more about how to find your true voice:

4th of a 12 month series on Natural Health and Healing Ideas  
Please join us  
Sharon the Health Presents:  
**Get Over it! Experience the Joy of Speaking Up**  
Special Guest, **Michael Neuendorff**, Public Speaking Coach  
**Wed. Sept. 19 • 6:45 to 8:30 PM**  
**Florey’s Book Company**  
**2120 Palmetto Ave. • Pacifica, CA 94044**  
RSVP ASAP! This will fill up fast. Space is limited! Call Sharon 650.359.6579 or email [sharon@sharonthehealth.com](mailto:sharon@sharonthehealth.com)

*“The views expressed are those of the writer. If you have any questions about your health, you should always consult with your doctor.”*

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Remember When?



Large earthmoving machinery is hard at work bringing ‘progress’ to Diamond Heights, but there are some in the area who have complained of the dust raised. What used to be such clean nice fog coming over the hill is now full of grime. Construction site in the Diamond Heights district. Date 1960 June 25. Permission to use this image was obtained from the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

Here’s the legend to the current District 7 candidates:

A. Francis Xavier (FX) Crowley.....

B. Bob Squeri.....

C. Glenn Rogers.....

D. Michael Garcia.....

E. Joel Engardio.....

F. Norman Yee.....

G. Andrew Bley.....

H. Lynn Gavin.....

I. Julian Lagos.....

fxcrowley.com

bobsqueri.com

voteglennrogersdistrict7.nationbuilder.com

www.mikegarcia2012.com

www.engardio.com/Welcome.html

www.normanyee.com/district7

andrewbley.com

gavin4d7.com

No website at this time

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Sudoku-fun!

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 so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

Answer: The answer appears below.

8 4 3 1 9 2 7 5 6

7 6 1 5 8 4 2 9 3

9 2 5 6 7 3 1 4 8

6 8 9 2 5 7 3 1 4

1 5 7 3 4 6 9 8 2

2 3 4 9 1 8 5 6 7

4 1 8 7 3 9 6 2 5

3 9 2 4 6 5 8 7 1

5 7 6 8 2 1 4 3 9

OPEN LATE

11:00AM

Hooray for velcro swaddles.

2:00 PM

Wow. This swing really works well.

9:00PM

This rocking chair and pillow are amazing.

4:00 AM

This artisan San Francisco fog-cutter french roast is a lifesaver!!

By Julie Casson

Aa

Elementary School Fair

Sunday, September 23, 2012

11:00 am - 2:30 pm • Free to all

Meet parents and representatives from private, parochial, and public schools in Bernal Heights, Glen Park, Noe Valley, Potrero Hill, the Mission, the Market Street corridor and the 280 corridor.

Parents for public schools will hold 2 free workshops on the SFUSD lottery and enrollment process.

We thank our sponsors: Children's Day School, Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center, Stratford School, Whole Foods Market Noe Valley, and Urbansitter.com

For more information on the fair, schools, and to register for enrollment workshops, please visit our website: [www.noeschools.com](http://www.noeschools.com)

BRAIN FÜD

Secret Word Groups

This brain teaser relies on your ability to recognize groups of common attributes. For this puzzle you'll need to figure out why the words or letters are grouped as they are. Sometimes you will be asked to pick the odd-one-out or to place a new word into the correct group.

I am thinking of three secret words; they are all related and are in common use. You can find the secret words by solving the following.

Several words are given below (the secret words are NOT given). Your challenge is to determine in which one of three groups the given words belong. Each secret word is the basis for one group. Solve the groups, find the secret words!

adopt, darkest, eleventh, fiddle, fifteen, guess, happy, maid, nature, rice, rush, split, steak, wind, witching

Bonus: Name one body part that belongs in all three groups.

Answers p. 18

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION - Research Study for Blood Transfusions in Trauma Patients Seeks Community Input May 2012.

Learn about an emergency blood transfusion study at SF General Hospital that may affect you or someone you know. Traumatic injury is the number one cause of death for people under the age of 45. The PROPPR study, starting soon at SF General Hospital is trying to find the best way to give blood transfusions to citizens ages 15 and older with serious injuries who need a massive blood transfusion. The goal of this study is to learn which ratio of blood products will improve survival. Both ratios are in widespread clinical use in the United States. All other treatment and care the patients will get at SFGH will remain the same. If a patient is not in the study, the amount of blood products they get is decided by the trauma surgeons, and not by the study. Normally, researchers ask the patient, legal guardian or surrogate for consent before a patient is enrolled into a study. Because a patient with a serious injury will not be able to give consent when they arrive at SFGH, the surgeons will enroll patients into the study without getting consent. This is called, "Exception from Informed Consent" (EFIC). We will contact a legal guardian or surrogate as soon as possible to tell them about this study and get their permission for the patient to remain in the study. Patients' can choose to drop out of the study at any time. The reason you are seeing this handout is we want to let the community know about this study. We also want to provide contact information and resources where you can learn more about the study, including an option to decline to take part in the study in the event you are injured. This study is approved by the UCSF Committee on Human Research.

PROPPR Contact Information - San Francisco General Hospital  
Primary Investigator- Mitchell Cohen, MD Study Staff- M. Nelson, RN, MPA & A. Daley, MA  
Phone: 415.206.4799/ Email: [daleya@sfghsurg.ucsf.edu](mailto:daleya@sfghsurg.ucsf.edu)  
<http://clinicaltrials.gov/> <http://cetir-tmc.org/research/proppr>  
<https://roc.uwctc.org/tiki/current-studies>



# “Why Do they Keep Coming to this Doctor?...”

(Who admits to curing no one.)

Dear friend,

I've got to tell you something that I have never said out loud.

But what I am going to tell you makes so much sense that you'll probably get mad that no one told you this before.

I've been doctor in this town for 10 years now. And to this day I've never cured anyone. You may think that the word would get around and that no one would come to see me anymore. The opposite is true. The more people who understand, the more people come to see me.

Several times a day patients thank me for helping them with their health problems. But I can't really take the credit. I've never healed anyone of anything. What I do is perform a specific spinal adjustment to remove nerve pressure and the body responds by healing itself. And, we get terrific results. That is why our office is filled with people who have found help nowhere else.

Let me tell a little about me before I tell you about a terrific offer I have for you.

17 years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend, she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car? We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the medical doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse.

For years I tried everything that I could find. For an answer to the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists; I tried special pillows, etc. I spent a lot of time and money. Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and I felt like I was 100.

That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week? So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange but, I was so happy and grateful for the relief, I thank him every day!

After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor.

I have adjusted babies within hours of being born. They obviously didn't complain of neck or back pain. I adjusted them to keep their spines in alignment so there were no pinched nerves to cause problems or pains... As with the many children that I care for in my office. And that is how it happened!

For the last 7 years, people from San Francisco and the surrounding area have

come to see me with their pinched nerve problems. They also come to me with their:

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries just to name a few

Here is what some of you neighbors have said:

*“I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!”*

—A. McGrath

*“After two major car accidents, after trying all possible medicines and doctors, you made a miracle taking away my pain!! I am a happy wife and mother again!”*

— L. Igudesman

*“I have had chronic neck, shoulder and arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Doctor Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my own pants and there is no longer a need for me to ice my arm in the morning and night! I feel more energetic, and can move my arm and neck pain free!”*

— C. Brubaker

Exciting offer-look, I know you're smart. You want to get to the cause of the problem, and not just cover it up with drugs. When you are one of the first 20 people to call and schedule a new patient exam you will receive that entire exam for \$37. That's with a consultation with the doctor, examination and x-rays... The whole ball of wax, and there are no hidden fees. But call right away because we expect to be flooded with calls as this exam costs \$318.

Again there are only 20 of these slots so don't miss out.

Great care at a great fee...Please I hope that there's no misunderstanding about the quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You'll get great care at a great fee. My qualifications. I am a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic who has published articles in leading chiropractic journals and taught chiropractors chiropractic. I've been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to athletes that you may know. I've been helping your neighbors in San Francisco since 2004. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care.

My assistants are Raquel and Lila and they are really great people. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our office is called San Francisco Family Spinal Care and it is at 505 Beach Street (we are at the corner of Beach and Jones on the edge of North Beach). Our phone number is 415-771-7071. Call Raquel or Lila today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

— Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor's office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That's why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

P.P.P.S. Of course, all people respond differently to care.



# 38 is GREAT

By Carol Kocivar



If you have a smartphone near you or are by a computer, please take a minute to check something out. The California State PTA helped write and is supporting an initiative on the November ballot, Proposition 38, to fund our schools.

It will generate \$10-\$11 billion dollars each year for 12 years. This money can be used to start to restore the programs and services that have been cut out of our public schools.

How will it help our local schools?

You can find an estimate just by going to the “Yes on 38” web site. Check out “The Numbers.” You can find a calculator that estimates what your school will receive when this passes. Just type in the name of your school.

The Numbers show how the funding for our schools increases over the 12-year life of Proposition 38.

My kids attended Clarendon Elementary School. According to the calculator, here is what that school will be getting when Proposition 38 passes:

Year	Funding
2013-2014	\$436,907
2017-2018	\$760,021
2023-2024	\$1,028,185

Then they attended Herbert Hoover Middle School. According to the calculator, here is what that school will be getting when Proposition 38 passes.

Year	Funding
2013-2014	\$1,102,980
2017-2018	\$1,918,688
2023-2024	\$2,595,674

They then attended Lowell High School. According to the calculator, here is what that school will be getting when Proposition 38 passes:

Year	Funding
2013-2014	\$2,632,316
2017-2018	\$4,579,041
2023-2024	\$6,194,702

Funding MUST go to every local public school in California based on the number of students at that school. And funding decisions are made locally, after public input.

Proposition 38 starts to restore the California dream of a quality education for all our children.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine...

Imagine a kindergarten class that is small enough for a teacher to meet the individual needs of each young child.

Imagine an elementary school with a librarian....A middle school that teaches art and music....A high school with

enough counselors to help our students take the right courses to get into college.

Imagine restoring the instructional time that has been cut from our public schools.

This is what will happen in our local schools when Proposition 38 passes.

And that is why the California State PTA helped write and is supporting Proposition 38.

Parents, families, and voters throughout California believe adequate funding for our schools and access to a complete quality education for all children are urgent priorities.

It is time to STOP engaging parents and communities in heartbreaking decisions on how to cut more out of our schools and to START engaging parents and communities in the important decisions on how we can restore programs and services in every school in California

Proposition 38 generates revenue for this investment through a sliding scale income tax.

The wealthiest taxpayers pay the most, with rates rising 2.2% for individuals on incomes over \$2.5 million. At the low end, taxpayers with incomes under \$25,000 would pay an annual average of \$7.00.

It also significantly and dramatically relieves the budget deficit — \$3 billion dollars every year for 4 years and millions more for eight more years — by paying down state bond debt. This money can be used to support higher education and other important programs.

This is the biggest fundraiser in the history of PTA.

Are you in?

Just imagine ... just imagine what we can all accomplish if we work together for California's children.

What you can do:

1. Find out how much your local school will receive. Go to Yes on 38.
2. Let your friends and neighbors know how this will help our local schools.
3. Join us on Facebook and spread the word.

[www.facebook.com/YesOn38](http://www.facebook.com/YesOn38). Feedback: [kocivar@westsideobserver.com](mailto:kocivar@westsideobserver.com)

# Phyllis' Findings / Phyllis Sherman

## LESS IS MORE



I recently saw a button that said, “If you had it all, where would you put it?” Now that would definitely be a problem. Even with a large house, there's a point of no return.

Many years ago the slogan “Less is More” was popular. At the time I could never really understand that “Less is NOT more,” “More” is “more.” Mother used to say “Never throw anything away. You may need it.” And always “It'll always come back.” But how long must one wait? Even if the peplum skirt becomes the rage again (and I think it may be the rage again), the odds are you will have outgrown it. The only one who wears Harlequin glasses, or did wear them, was Dame Edna, and who wants to look like her? Remember “snoods?” And what about bell bottom trousers, although those may be right in style if you have a pair. Saddle shoes and girdles are about to make a comeback. (Heaven forbid the latter!)

Some years ago, the late Philip Roth wrote *Letting Go* in which he describes the frenetic contest between one's sympathies for others and one's instinct for self protection. Only at the end of the novel are we able to see the hero “letting go” and plunging headlong into the confusion of human life. Most people hang on, and are dreadfully fearful of letting go. That goes for more than just old clothes. It also concerns outmoded attitudes and ideas...and papers and even relationships...think about 50% divorces.

My problem was papers. Some years ago I hired an Organization Maven who showed me how to file, organize papers, throw out stuff, and generally simplify my life. I knew I could and should do this on my own, but I didn't. I needed someone to show me how, what, and where to put things and which things to discard. And I discovered that, yes, less is absolutely more. Things were easier to find because there weren't so many of them. I was able to perform tasks more efficiently and able to make the most of my time, because there weren't so many of them. I've never missed the sparkly luminescent dress which is two sizes too small. Also, and most important, I paid attention to William James' adage: “the art of being wise is knowing what to overlook.” There are very few documents that can't be retrieved from the original source, if absolutely necessary. And the stuff that you file, how much of it do you ever go back to? Does this mean I no longer have a cluttered desk? You'd better not believe that.

Gonna call back my Organizational Maven for the next part of my life. I realize

Cont. p. 19





**Real Travel** *By Sergio Nibbi*

## A Roman Holiday

Watching a movie at the Osio Theater in Monterey is an adventure all of its own. I've seen home theaters that have screening rooms larger than a few of the small theaters in this mini multiplex. The movies shown are not the big blockbuster Hollywood barn burners that gross millions on opening day, but where else are you going to find the more avant-garde movies that are seldom seen or heard about? One would think that a new Woody Allen movie would garner a larger room or a bigger audience, but the forty or so of us watching Allen's latest movie "To Rome with Love" were treated to some of the most beautiful scenes of the eternal city ever filmed. Of course watching Penelope Cruz as a red hot prostitute and award winning Roberto Benigni certainly added to the thrill of the moment, but I must admit that my mind did drift momentarily to our last visit to Rome. Aside from the usual tourist spots like the Coliseum, St. Peter's, and the Fountain of Trevi, we were treated to a day of sightseeing in Ostia Antica, the harbor city of ancient Rome.

Giberto met us in front of our hotel, and while deftly weaving in and out of Rome's incredible traffic, pointed out the sites as we headed out of town. A pyramid here, a fountain there, statues on every corner and monuments on every block. How interesting that one can become so oblivious to thousands of years of history.

It seems like the heat wave that had gripped Rome was enough to keep many visitors from these amazing ruins — we had the entire area to ourselves. As luck would have it, we ran into a lovely woman who offered us a one hour tour for a mere 25 Euro, and so for the next 60 minutes she showed us around while describing the shape and use of the original buildings, stopping at the arena to sing a few bars of opera to demonstrate the acoustical perfection of the stage. In fact, there was going to be a major concert there that evening.

Ostia was originally Rome's main port and at one time the harbor was expanded to accommodate over 300 ships. It was eventually replaced by a larger port, and unfortunately with the fall of the Roman Empire, it was abandoned and forgotten. What the silting didn't cover, the trees and overgrowth eventually enveloped. Thankfully, this grand act of nature managed to

preserve this treasure, and it was Napoleon who started to excavate and reclaim the city. The restoration has left the area

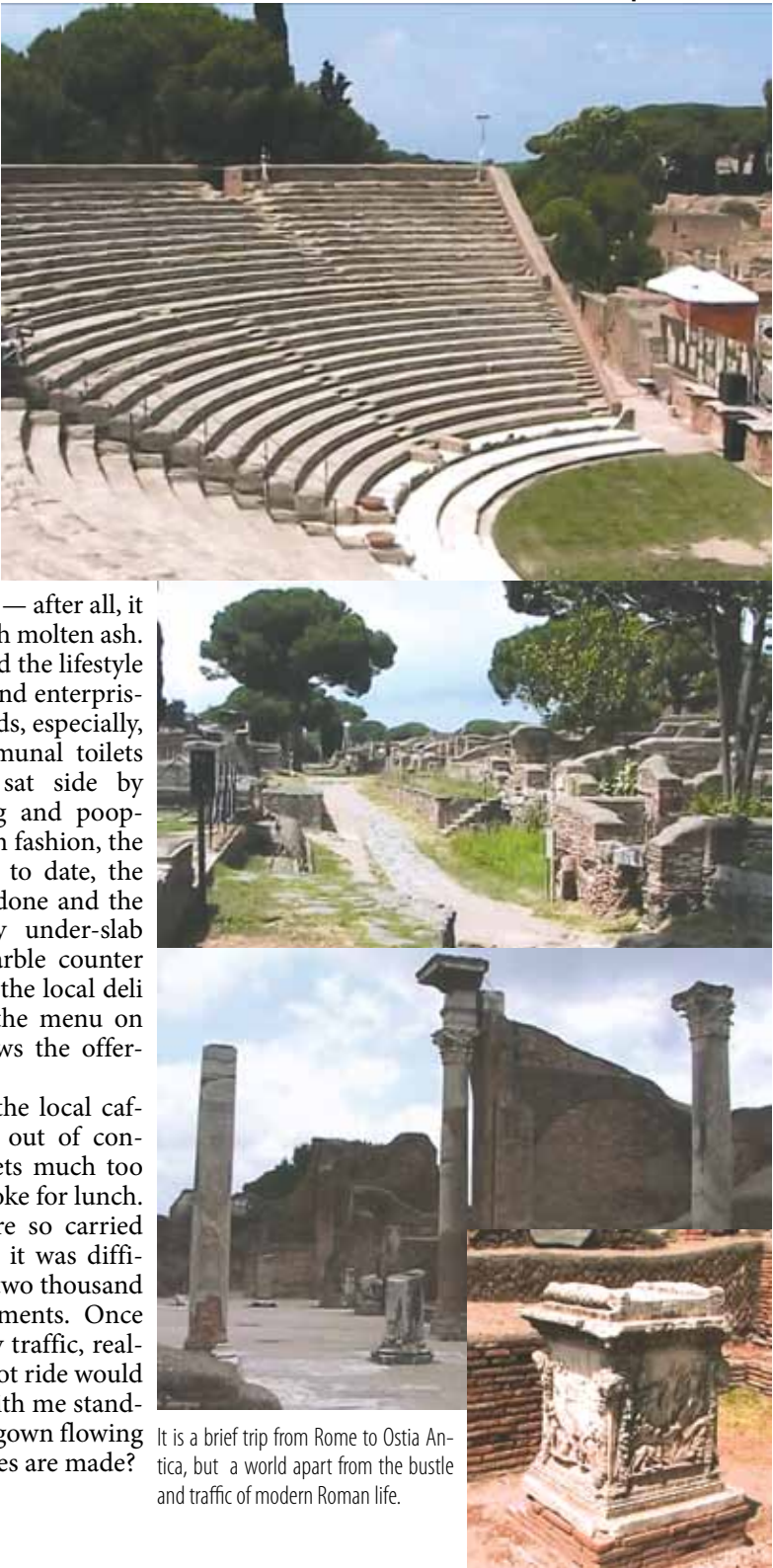
in better condition than Pompeii — after all, it wasn't covered with molten ash.

It truly showed the lifestyle of these brilliant and enterprising people. The kids, especially, enjoyed the communal toilets where everyone sat side by side while talking and pooping. In true Roman fashion, the plumbing was up to date, the pools beautifully done and the saunas heated by under-slab furnaces. The marble counter of what had been the local deli still stands, and the menu on the wall still shows the offerings of the day.

A panino at the local cafeteria seemed so out of context, and the toilets much too modern, as we broke for lunch. Somehow we were so carried back in time that it was difficult to transcend two thousand years in just moments. Once

back in our van and into the modern day traffic, reality definitely took its grip. Perhaps a chariot ride would have been more appropriate, especially with me standing on the front end, whip in hand, white gown flowing in the wind, or is that stuff of which movies are made?

Feedback: [sergio@westsideobserver.com](mailto:sergio@westsideobserver.com)



It is a brief trip from Rome to Ostia Antica, but a world apart from the bustle and traffic of modern Roman life.

### Whistleblower (Cont. from p. 9)

through 1993, and initially managed by Edwin Lee. In November 1993, voters passed Prop K that authorized the Ethics Commission to investigate retaliation claims. On 2/24/1997, Lee advised the Ethics Commission that "Cases involving retaliation were treated as a high priority" — even though he had been the sole investigator. As of 12/17/2001, Ethics had reviewed 7 retaliation complaints over 6.5 years. As of July 2012, Ethics has dismissed all of approximately 17 whistleblower retaliation claims it received.

Retaliation, a primitive form of damage control, is directed at whistleblowers by their bosses. Yet, the SFWP sends most complaints right back to the department named in the complaint. Until May 2012, the SFWP didn't even bother to track retaliation complaints. Instead, the SFWP washed its hands of retaliation by making dead-end referrals to the Ethics Commission. While monitoring retaliation would help, "reported cases of retaliation are a small fraction of actual reprisals" says Mat Stephenson, partner in the Employment Law firm of Kochan & Stephenson. The trauma of retaliation pushes most informants to give up and move on without protesting. Therefore, unethical organizations consider retaliation "cost-effective" according to Stephenson. The few who seek redress are often dismissed as "disgruntled." Until they sue. Although potential costs for the City are significant, the Controller's Office refuses to conduct a whistleblower retaliation survey.

Exposing wrongdoing and retaliation by a City department often points to systemic failures of governance. Wrongdoing may be entrenched in the workplace culture, or serve a hidden political agenda. Whistleblower Programs that tackle such problems threaten powerful entities and become vulnerable to retaliation themselves. They face smears,

bullying, funding cuts, staffing changes, or having their mandate clipped. In other words, they are treated just like whistleblowers. The Board of Supervisors' purge of the City's Sunshine Task Force in May 2012 shows how risky addressing misgovernment can be. However, Programs have ways to dodge political reprisals.

Setting up a sham Whistleblower Program avoids the risks of exposing corruption. Fake Programs can lure and lull informants so they don't air complaints publicly. The 2011 Civil Grand Jury alluded to such charades in its investigation of the SFWP: "A poor or mediocre Whistleblower Program — one that seems to be something it is not — is perhaps worse than none at all." It's noteworthy that in the four fiscal years between 2004 and 2008, the average annual budget for the SFWP was \$256,300. In the 4 years from 2008 to 2012, under Controller Ben Rosenfield, the average annual budget plunged to \$134,079, a 48% drop. That's enough to prop up a façade, not to maintain a top-notch Program.

Colluding with other City agencies to dismiss whistleblower claims also reduces the risk of exposing misgovernment. Both the Controller's Whistleblower Program and the Ethics Commission refer serious complaints to the City Attorney. The City Attorney has dual loyalties — and a conflict of interests. Along with reviewing allegations of governmental wrongdoing, the City Attorney has a duty to defend City officials accused of misconduct. Despite claims of erecting "ethical walls," the likelihood of mutual back-scratching is high. Instead of protecting whistleblowers, the City Attorney is the main adversary, the reason retaliation persists.

*Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed DPW wrongdoing. Contact: [DerekOnVanNess@aol.com](mailto:DerekOnVanNess@aol.com)*

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### Brain Füd(Cont. from p. 16)

#### Answer

Secret words: hour, minute, second

#### Hour group:

- darkest hour (before the dawn)
- eleventh hour (almost too late)
- happy hour (discounted drinks)
- rush hour (traffic)
- witching hour (midnight)

#### Minute group

- adopt minutes (of a meeting)
- fifteen minutes (of fame)
- minute maid (brand name)

- minute rice (brand name)
- minute steak (similar to cube steak)

#### Second group

- second fiddle (supporting role)
- second guess (try to predict)
- second nature (natural habit)
- split second (quickly)
- second wind (during running)

#### Bonus word: hand

- hour hand, minute hand, second hand (parts of a clock)





**Q:** Do you recommend paying for an inspection on a new construction home?—*Aaron Chantal*

**A:** It's interesting what a good inspector can find in a new construction inspection. Recently a new condo I sold had a broken dishwasher and a bathtub that was not installed property. The tub was repaired without removing it and the dishwasher was replaced.

**Q:** What are the risks of a reverse mortgage? —*Pauline*

**A:** reverse mortgage is a complex loan that lets homeowners borrow money against the equity in their home. It can be a good option for someone low on cash with a lot of home equity. The risk is that roughly 9 percent of homeowners were at risk of foreclosure because of having depleted the equity and not being able to service the loan.

**Q:** How do we determine renovation/remodeling cost for a home we are interested in buying?—*Peter Yee*

**A:** In general contractors do not like giving estimates on homes that are not owned by the potential client. This is because the estimating process takes time and a good contractor does not have much time to spare. Remember that for every \$100 a homeowner spends on remodeling there is about \$80 worth of increased value.

*Kevin Birmingham is a licensed real estate broker, have a question for the Real Estate Answer Man? Submit them to kevinb@zephyrsf.com*

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Phyllis (Cont. from p. 17)

that Mom didn't always know best and I realize I have to begin "downsizing" and I'm making a start. Today I emptied out a closet with dozens of unnecessary clothes that will go to Goodwill, and tomorrow I start on drawers and files. It definitely has a freeing effect and I heartily recommend it, even if there's a hint of sadness along with the effect. Will let you know my progress.

Endquote: This is a lifetime of goodbyes. As we continue with life, we will say goodbye to cherished people, things and ideas. Eventually, we say goodbye to life itself with our death. Learn to say a good goodbye. —*John Clarke, 1596–1658*

Feedback: phyllis@westsideobserver.com

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Hilary is taking a sabbatical. We hope she'll be back soon.



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