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GG Park's New Water Treatment Factory

By Greg Miller

The SF Public Utilities Commission has announced an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a new water treatment plant in the western part of Golden Gate Park. This factory will be located northeast of the historic (and soon to be restored) Murphy Windmill and Millwright's Cottage. The project includes approximately 40,000 square feet of buildings as well as new roads, parking, and lighting. The plant would filter and disinfect pre-treated sewer and storm water that will then be used to irrigate Golden Gate Park, the Presidio Golf Course and Lincoln Park. Currently, potable water from the aquifer under Golden Gate Park is used for this irrigation. According to the PUC, the purpose of the project is to mix the aquifer water with Hetch Hetchy water to make drinking water for San Franciscans. The treated water from the recycling plant will then be used for irrigation. Estimated construction cost of the proposed project is \$109 million with construction planned for completion in 2015.

The placement of the plant above-ground in Golden Gate Park raises a number of issues about the location and design of the facility. According to the 1998 Golden Gate Park Master Plan, this part of the western end of Golden Gate



Park should be converted to recreation and parkland uses. The Master Plan also states that if a water treatment plant is installed, it must be placed completely underground with recreational uses on top of it. But the SFPUC is planning to build large buildings above ground, at a height of 30 feet in some places. There are many questions about this project: Why was this location selected? Why aren't the buildings being placed underground? Why are we giving up valuable parkland to what is essentially an industrial use? Why are we giving up open space to paving, buildings, parking, and lighting?

The factory will be built on what is now a construction yard. One argument given by the SFPUC in favor of the factory is that it will 'return' open space to the Park. But building a factory is not

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Commercialization Detracts From Recent Renovations

By Kathy Howard, Friends of the Music Concourse



The Music Concourse has just finished millions of dollars of renovations, with the final stage being the renovation of the fountains. Unfortunately, the Department of Recreation and Park has chosen at this time to place numerous food, Segway, and bicycle vendors at the Bandshell, detracting from the historic character and the quality of this space. These changes have been instituted without filing the appropriate documentation with the Historic Preservation Commission as required by the landmark status of the area.

At a September meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission, FMC recommended that the Department present a long-term plan for both the area behind the Bandshell and the bus parking lot. We suggested consulting the Golden Gate Park Master Plan and

following the spirit of this design, which is that of an attractive, high-quality area to match the dignity and spirit of the overall Music Concourse.

The Music Concourse is a classic, peaceful space that provides a beautiful respite for San Franciscans and visitors alike from the pressures and commercialism that pervade our 21st century society. Recreation and Park has taken care that the original design and materials be preserved, and at great expense. We encourage RPD to also preserve the special feeling of the Music Concourse in its development of commercial opportunities next to the Bandshell. We look forward to working with the Department and the Historic Preservation Commission to continue to enhance this area that is so precious to so many San Franciscans.

Feedback: howard@westsideobserver.com

New Taraval Captain Announces First of "Merchant Mondays"



Taraval Police Station's new Captain John Sanford plans a new community outreach effort. "I would like to announce a new community engagement strategy," said Captain John Sanford, "every third Monday of each month I will have what is known as Merchant Mondays. This is my opportunity to meet with merchants in the Taraval District and discuss issues relevant to their business. Our discussion will include best practices, community relations, good neighbor strategies, loitering and crime problems that may adversely affect your business."

The meetings are planned to be moved around to different locations around the district to any merchant facilities that would like to host the monthly meeting. The first meeting, will be held at Taraval Police Station on Monday, October 18, 2010 @ 1:00 p.m. "We will discuss future locations and the best meeting time at our first meeting," Sanford said.

The general public will be invited to this first meeting, but the focus of the meeting is to discuss issues related to local merchants.

Check out our complete Police Blotter at www.westsideobserver.com/blotter

What does the City Spend?

By Steve Lawrence

San Francisco spends about \$8200 per resident per year. That is far more than the state spends on your behalf, and nearly what the federal government does.

Total City spending per year is over \$6.5 billion. That includes what is spent currently for benefits for retirees, but it does not include all that will need to be spent on those now working who will retire with pensions and life-time medical benefits. Also, the figure does not include schools and teachers.

Half of what San Francisco spends goes to personnel — to the salaries and benefits of public employees and retirees. In San Francisco public employees make more than private employees do. They also receive better benefits, have a more secure job, and, probably, enjoy better working conditions with fewer demands.

During good times public employment expands. Politicians respond to demands of constituents, special interests, and unions of public employees to do and hire more. When the hard times come it



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COMMUNITY

RUMINATIONS FROM A FORMER SUPERVISOR

"The Prop Kopp" Takes on the Election...

Section 1 of the California Constitution proclaims that all political power "is inherent in the people." Section 2 declares that a United States citizen 18 years of age and resident in California may vote. Therefore, the message is unmistakable: Vote on November 2, 2010. There's plenty of material to arouse your curiosity, and, even, excitement. Besides the election of a United States Senator for six years, there's election of a Governor, a Lieutenant Governor, an Attorney General, a State Treasurer, a State Controller, a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a Board of Equalization member, a Secretary of State, a State Insurance Commissioner, members of the State Legislature, members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, members of the City College of San Francisco governing board, members of the San Francisco Board of Education, confirmation of three justices of the California Supreme Court, among others. There are also ballot propositions, State and local. Now that my First Amendment rights have been restored because of retirement from the Superior Court, I can resume a bygone practice of recommending support or opposition regarding propositions, which I now gladly do, while eschewing recommendations concerning individual candidates, with the exception of those public officers who directly involve law enforcement and the judiciary. Here goes.

Nine state ballot propositions are presented. **Proposition 19** legalizes marijuana under California but not under Federal law and permits local governments to regulate and tax commercial production, distribution and sale of marijuana to persons 21 years old or older. I agree with the President of Mothers Against Drunk Driving that Proposition 19 constitutes a "jumbled legal nightmare that will make our highways, our workplaces and our communities less safe." **Vote "No"** on Proposition 19.

On the other hand, I recommend a **"Yes"** vote on **Proposition 20**, which merely extends to the reapportionment of California's Congressional districts the same concept that voters approved in November 2008 as a constitutional amendment for reapportioning boundaries for the State Assembly, State Senate and Board of Equalization. A redistricting commission comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and four voters registered with neither party, will approve new Congressional district boundaries under Proposition 20. It makes sense.

Proposition 21 represents the same genre of special tax abuse that has contributed to state budgetary crises almost year after year the past decade and longer. It adds 18 dollars per year as a vehicle license "surcharge," not for the state general fund or even Department of Motor Vehicles or California Highway Patrol expenses, but for a new fund to benefit operational costs of state parks and wildlife conservation activities. The vehicle registration fee represents a special fund to defray the costs of the Department of Motor Vehicles and California Highway Patrol, an easily understood connection between the fee (or tax) and the service to which proceeds of the fee are devoted. That's not true with raising such tax to apply it to state parks and wildlife conservation, even if California vehicles receive free admission to state parks and beaches as a result. Not all vehicle owners and licensed taxpayers use state parks and beaches. Maybe the term "ballot box budgeting" is now trite; that, however, is embodied by Proposition 21 and, however noble the motivation, implementation of Proposition 21 drives yet another nail in the ability of the legislature and governor to execute their constitutional budget balancing responsibilities. That's why **I'm voting against Prop 21.**

Proposition 22 constitutes yet another constitutional amendment effort to prohibit the state from borrowing or seizing funds otherwise designated for local transportation, redevelopment or similar projects and services. It would stop the state's ability to use gasoline tax proceeds to pay debt service on transportation bonds or redirect redevelopment property tax proceeds or vehicle license fee income to pay for state-imposed mandates on local governments. I have never been an admirer of the redevelopment process, which essentially takes real estate from one party and allows another to purchase it at a lower price. Contrarily, the Highway Users Tax account constitutes a genuine user fee; motor vehicle operators pay the state gasoline tax of 18 cents per gallon into a specific account, the proceeds of which are used to build and maintain streets and highways, with minor diversion for buses, trolley cars and other "public transit." The ballot argument against Proposition 22 implies that it confers state constitutional protection upon redevelopment agencies for the first time. That is untrue. The state constitution contains several redevelopment provisions. (Article XVI, Section 16) On balance, Proposition 22 is benign. **Vote "Yes."**

Proposition 23 amends the California Health and Safety Code to suspend a justifiable environmental law enacted in 2006, preventing its operation until the state unemployment rate decreases to 5.5% or less for four consecutive calendar quarters! Prior legislation compels decreases in carbon dioxide emissions and is conceptually justified. Proposition 23 originates as an initiative funded by millions of dollars from two Texas oil companies. "Nuff said?" **Vote against it.**

Proposition 24 repeals 2008 and 2009 laws that allowed multi-state businesses a new method of determining their income subject to California income taxation plus allows a business with available tax credits to transfer unused credits to another business in the same group. Proponents characterize the measure as ending \$1,700,000,000 in corporate tax "loopholes." I am bothered that Proposition 24, an initiative promulgated by the respected California Tax Reform Association, among others, represents another form of "ballot box budgeting" but I'm persuaded the repealed tax provisions do unfairly benefit large multi-state corporations. In my State Senate years, such corporations annually sought such legislation and obviously succeeded in 2008 and 2009. **I'm voting for Proposition 24.**

I'm also voting for Proposition 25, which changes the constitutional requirement enacted in 1935 as part of a compromise during institution of the state sales tax that requires a two-thirds majority of each house of the legislature to enact a state Budget Act each year. It mirrors a constitutional amendment I tried for four years to implement legislatively for voter approval, because it contains a strict provision that in any year in which the budget bill is not passed by the legislature by June 15, all legislators shall forfeit their salary or reimbursement for travel or living expenses until the budget bill is presented to the governor. It bars reimbursement for travel or living expenses or salary forfeited pursuant to the measure from being paid retroactively! (My bills also contained a requirement of five percent of general fund expenditure be placed in an annual reserve and the enactment date be changed from June 15 to June 30, the day before the beginning of the next fiscal year, but I'll gladly accept this truncated version). Proposition 25 should eliminate the indignity of disregard of the June 15 annual deadline for passage of a budget bill. Additionally, it does NOT change the constitutional requirement of a two-thirds vote of the legislature to raise taxes. (Incidentally, only two other states require a super majority legislative vote to adopt an annual Budget Act.)

Speaking of taxes and fees, **Proposition 26**, yet another initiative constitutional amendment, expands to regulatory fees the doctrine that state taxes must be approved by

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COMMUNITY

News & Views West of Twin Peaks Central Council

By Mitch Bull

The WOTPCC kicked off their new year with a standing room only crowd eager to see a debate over the future of city employee pensions and health care. Over 65 people attended the September 27th meeting, at the Forest Hills clubhouse to see San Francisco Public Defender, Jeff Adachi, weigh in on his



Public Defender Jeff Adachi



Tim Paulson, Executive Director, SF Labor Council

"Yes on Prop B" stance against Tim Paulson, head of the San Francisco Labor Council, countering with his "No on B" stance.

Before the debate, Council President George Wooding opened the meeting at 7:30PM sharp by introducing the new Council officers: Blue Mudbhary, Recording Secretary, and Matt Chamberlain, Vice President. They join holdovers Wooding, Carolyn Squeri (Treasurer), and Avrum Shepard (Parliamentarian) to complete the Council Board.

The San Francisco District Attorney's office was represented by Assistant DA Marissa Rodriguez, who spoke briefly to inform the attendees that the District Attorney's office will now be represented at every WOTPCC meeting to field questions and concerns from the members and guests. She also distributed information to interested parties on differences between the "Standard to Arrest and Standard to Convict" as related to making arrests and convicting those arrested in San Francisco.

From the presentations made, very different views of the fiscal future of the San Francisco Pension and Health Care system emerged.

Following a short Treasurer's report by Squeri, and a "Better Streets Planning" report by Shepard, Wooding gave a short report on the Laguna Honda Gift Fund debacle. Amid questions as to if the City Attorney has been given the information, it was determined that indeed, Herrera has the information, but a formal audit has not been completed and could be a very difficult process to complete due to the many accounts that were set up and the method in which the funds were moved around. To complicate matter, health chief Mitch Katz is expected to leave San Francisco to take over as the health chief for Los Angeles. As more information becomes available on LHH we will report it.

Dan of the Miraloma Park Improvement Club addressed the crowd asking for support in helping their organization deal with a homeowner on Teresita who is planning to install a large wind mill powered electric generator in the middle of a neighborhood.

Speakers related to election issues took "center stage" with explanations on Measure F, impacting the Board members of the SF Health System, which covers over 105,000 members and claims to only save \$30,000, yet cost over \$50,000 to put on the ballot. The projected savings wouldn't start until 2016.

As a preamble to the main debate on Prop B, a presentation based on the San Francisco Grand Jury findings was presented by a member of the Grand Jury.

Following the report on the Grand Jury findings, the presentations of both sides of the Proposition B debate started in earnest. Both Adachi and Paulson were given 12-minutes to make their cases, and then given time for rebuttal. Following, the floor was opened for questions and answers from the speakers.

From the presentations made, very different views of the fiscal future of the San Francisco Pension and Health Care system emerged. On the one hand, Adachi stated his case that pension and health care costs for city employees have risen from \$17,000,000 in 2001 to \$140,000,000 in 2010 and will skyrocket to \$1,000,000,000 in 5 years, with the possibility that SF will end up like Vallejo, deeply in debt or bankrupted if action is not taken to address the issue. Paulson countered that the Pension system is one of the best managed and funded systems in the country and is funded in the 97% range, and that the real issue is not pensions but an attempt by Adachi and the "Yes on B" proponents to take away health care benefits (through higher employee premiums) from the lower paid employees of San Francisco. Paulson also stated the Proposition is poorly written, and the wrong way to initiate compromise over the bargaining table. The union chief also pointed out "no elected official from Gavin Newsom to Nancy Pelosi is in support of Proposition B." He also questioned the findings of the Grand Jury as predicated on old "Lehman Brother" numbers and not truly accurate. He also reiterated several times about the "give backs" that the union members in SF have contributed to save local services. (These givebacks and concessions have been documented over the past several years.)

Handouts were available to the meeting attendees showing both Pro and Con views of the debate, and local media and photographers were also in attendance with no less than four photographers and journalists covering the spirited debate and Q and A session. The final debate on Prop B really centers on the numbers quoted from both sides and what is the actual pension and health care financial picture.

The final outcome on Proposition B will be determined by San Francisco voters on November 2, but it remains the "miracle of democracy" that we can engage in such debate and discourse in a free manner. The turnout certainly indicated that the local populace are very interested in the issues and will come out, in force, when great dialogue and information is being presented.

WOTPCC President Wooding adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting of the WOTPCC will be the annual meeting on Monday, October 25th at 7:30 in the Forest Hill Clubhouse.

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Laundry List of Dirty and Dumb Election Politics

By George Wooding

It's easy to see why San Francisco voters don't always vote. We are often asked to vote "Yes" on "No" by the very same government employees that we pay to solve the issues that we end up being asked to vote on. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) — the legislative branch — is required to be advocates for their constituency and to vote on legislation. The Mayor's office — the executive branch — oversees and manages the City.

Neither branch of City government plays well with each other, and haven't for a long time.

The dysfunction between the Mayor's office and the BOS is so bad that Supervisor Chris Daly introduced ballot Proposition C, which will amend City Charter Section 3.1 to force the Mayor to "appear in person, at one regularly scheduled meeting of the BOS each month to engage in formal policy discussions."

Did Proposition C actually need to be placed on the ballot? No. Do voters really need to determine if Supervisor Chris Daly should be spending more time with Gavin Newsom? Again, "No."

Ballot Proposition E, the Election Day Voter Registration Charter amendment sponsored by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, proposes that voters be allowed to register to vote in exclusively municipal elections on the same day that they vote. If you're too lazy or dumb to register to vote before a municipal election, you shouldn't be voting.

No wonder fewer and fewer people vote in San Francisco. "Yes" means "No," and up means down. Heated political battles, personal feuds, and vendettas are casually thrown to the voters. Propositions are complex and contain hidden agendas, while intimidation keeps worthy propositions off of the ballot.

The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office need to work together and do a better job of legislating San Francisco's issues, and representing their constituencies. It should not be voters' responsibility to both legislate and keep City politics out of the gutter.

Ballot Measure I, the Saturday Voting Act ordinance, wants citizens to vote on Saturdays, rather than on Tuesdays.

Both of these measures should never have been placed on the ballot. Now, real voters — the citizens who actually take the time to register to vote before elections and vote on Tuesdays — are going to have to decide how big a waste of time Propositions "E" and "I" are.

Proposition F is a charter amendment sponsored by Supervisor Sean Elsbernd. Elsbernd wants to alter the selection process for the seven-member Health Service System's board of directors. Three of the board members are appointed, and the four elected board members are currently serving five-year, overlapping terms to ensure that at least three Board members are knowledgeable and experienced in any given year.

Proposition F was designed to have board member terms expire in pairs and be elected in the same year.

Huh? The City Controller's Office states that City savings could be \$30,000 per year, starting in 2016 (in Controller-speak, this means that the City will lose money). Why is this a Charter amendment, and why was it placed on the ballot? Vote No.

Proposition H has almost nothing to do with the voters, or even with San Francisco. On June 15, Prop H was placed on the ballot with a single stroke of the pen by Mayor Newsom. Prop H amends the San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code so that elected City officials can no longer be elected to the board of a political party's Central Committee. This is a one-horse town and the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) — which is controlled by former Board of Supervisors president Aaron Peskin — runs almost everything.

Newsom and Peskin have had differences and on July 28, Peskin denied Newsom a seat on the DCCC. Peskin cited the DCCC legal council's decision that Newsom was ineligible for a seat on the DCCC, because "the statewide lieutenant governor post that he is running for is held by a Republican — Abel Maldonado. If Maldonado was a Democrat, Newsom would be allowed a seat on the DCCC."

The next day, Peskin grudgingly offered Newsom a temporary DCCC seat until November 2. If Newsom beats Maldonado, Newsom keeps his DCCC seat; if he loses, he's out.

Why is an internal Democratic Party policy issue on the ballot? Don't make the voters fight your battles. Vote "No" on Proposition H.

Party progressives — such as Supervisor John Avalos, labor unions, the Sierra Club, teachers, Senior Action Network, and the Tenants Unions — helped placed Proposition J, an ordinance, on the ballot. Prop J, The Hotel Fairness Initiative, closes loopholes in the hotel tax and will temporarily raise the hotel tax from 14% to 16% for three years. The anticipated annual \$38 million to \$45 million generated by closing the loopholes, and the hotel tax increase, will reportedly go back into the City's General Fund.

The word "temporary" is the dirtiest word in the English language. Any time someone involved in City politics tells you that something is temporary, you know you are being lied to.

Mayor Newsom called Prop J "a job-killing tax that will harm the tourism business," and promptly introduced Proposition K to confuse voters and kill Proposition J. The provisions in Newsom's Proposition K are almost identical to Proposition J — with one glaring exception: Proposition K keeps the hotel tax at 14% and adds a "poison pill" that states, "In the event that another measure on the November 2, 2010 ballot seeks to affect the overall rate of the Transient Occupancy Tax, any provisions of the other measure increasing the rate of tax or adding an additional surcharge shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of the other measure increasing the rate of tax or adding an additional surcharge shall be null and void, and the rate of tax plus all surcharges shall remain 14 percent."

Newsom is using dirty and deceptive political tactics, but he happens to be right: Higher hotel taxes will hurt the City's tourism business and generate less-than-expected revenue. Vote "Yes" on Proposition K, and "No" on Prop J.

Mayor Newsom introduced Proposition L, the Sit/Lie, Promotion of Civil Sidewalks ordinance, which amends the San Francisco Police Code. Prop L will make it illegal for people to continually sit and lie on sidewalks for extended periods of time. Newsom believes that "Present laws that prohibit the intentional, willful, or malicious obstruction of pedestrians do not adequately address the safety hazards, disruption and deterrence to pedestrian traffic caused by persons sitting or lying on sidewalks."

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MY TWO CENTS By Will Durst

MAN OH MAN, I'M MAD.

Man oh man, I'm mad. I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore. Take what? I don't know. And that makes me mad too. Angry. Riled up. Cranky. Irrate. Livid. Bellicose. Splenetic. Which has something to do with the spleen. Think it involves leakage. Whatever it is, it can't be good and I got it.

I'm mad at everything and everybody, but especially at career politicians. Not to mention career pediatricians. From now on, one of my kids gets sick, I'm taking them to see some incensed old coot straight off the street carrying a misspelled sign. Experience is way overrated. Why can't US Senator be an entry-level position?

I'm mad about paying taxes. Because I don't like paying taxes. I'm tired of my hard earned money wasted on silly things like roads and air traffic controllers and paramedics and pipeline inspectors. And flossing. I hate that too. Who needs teeth? Members of the lamestream media elite, that's who. So they can lie through them. Those guys I'm mad at because they keep running stories about me being mad.

I'm mad at the government's nit picking rules. Let corporations regulate themselves. They know what they're doing. I'm mad because I have to work two jobs just to get by and I'm mad rich people don't get more tax cuts. I'm mad about all the jobs that went overseas and I'm mad at unions demanding a living wage. I'm mad my life isn't better than my parents' and I'm mad I can't have everything now and force my children to pay for it. And knowing I'm confused just fuels my maddening.

I'm mad our Muslim President was born in Kenya. And don't bother me with your so-called facts. I know what I know and it makes me so mad I could just spit. So I do. Often. Right into the wind. And having the front of my shirt constantly moist just goesos the scale of how mad I am.

I'm mad at both of the parties. All of the parties. Political parties and birthday parties and tailgate parties. I'm mad at Democrats because they're the polar opposite of mad and I'm mad at Republicans because they're mad at me. And if my maddish spews hurt them, tough. Because they're not as mad as I am. I'm so mad I'll bite off both my hands one finger at a time if that's what it takes. To prove I'm mad. Which I am.

I'm mad at immigrants for doing jobs that are beneath me. I'm mad at the French. I'm mad at French's mustard. I'm mad at people who put ketchup on hot dogs. I'm even mad at people who are mad at people who put ketchup on hot dogs. You can never hope to replicate the purity of my precious maditude.

Some folks don't ever get mad which makes me maddest of all. The hell is wrong with these people? These uppity madless ones. Oooh, they make me so mad. But they will be mad. Soon enough. Because my madness is going to bloom and grow until everyone is as mad as me. Which, is going to be tough. Because I'm really really mad. Did I mention I was mad? Good. Because I am. Mad, that is. Man oh man, I'm mad.

Will Durst is a San Francisco based political columnist who also tells jokes sometimes. Feedback: durst@westsideobserver.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: *Quentin Kopp's Degraded, Disrespected and Disregarded* I find the article too conservative. The author seems to hide the reason why does the Government exist. Aren't we a big country that needs a powerful and big Government? Does the author not know what just had happened in the end of 2008? The biggest financial meltdown ever due to an anemic Government that has no funds? Or the oil spill, Katrina, etc. We rather should call upon a powerful, well financed Government, since we live in a dangerously earthquake prone area. Does Mr. Kopp think Mexico

will come to help us like they did during Katrina?

The General fund should go first of all to Public Transit and why not? We pretend to be a green city, so why not reward those who do not jam our streets with cars? Somewhere in the article Mr. Kopp insinuates that money generated from gasoline tax goes to Public Transit, as if it were a gift! Concerning the leitmotif of "Special Interest", I am amazed that Mr. Kopp seems to aim at UNIONS and those who serve the people. I always believed that if

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AROUND THE TOWN *Comings and Goings...* By Mitch Bull

Halloween, Elections, and other scary stuff....

Autumn is here, and with the weather it seems that we just by-passed summer completely. I know that a summer in SF is more a state of mind than an actual weather pattern lasting more than 3 days, but this "summer" was really cool and uninspiring from a weather standpoint. At least the **SF Giants** made the season one of the most exciting in memory.

It's hard to believe that Halloween and Election Day are right around the corner, but the calendar says that it is so. The election has some very important Propositions that will affect pensions, MUNI, pot clubs, the ability to sit/lie on the sidewalk, as well as the normal **phalanx of propositions** that we are asked to support and reject. Throw in that we actually have some **interesting candidates to vote for or reject**, and this election sizes up as one that will impact California and San Francisco for years to come. Although I do not believe in newspapers endorsing candidates (I think the voters should be able to do their homework and make the most informed choice) it is clear that one of our biggest hurdles is getting people to vote at all.

The advent of the absentee ballot and early voting is changing the way that campaigns are run and dollars spent. **Absentee/early balloting may account for 15-20% of vote totals** in some areas of the state. This is a large rise from years past when only the "snowbirds" or vacationers would bother to use the absentee method of voting. If you register early, it makes for an easy way to have your vote counted and frees your schedule from having to be in town on November 2. Although we may disagree on issues and candidates, there is no disputing that the ability to vote is one of the greatest gifts that we have. So, please vote and make your choices known. Check out "Quentin's Column" as he takes on the Propositions quite nicely.

Halloween will be fun and festive as the storefronts and windows on West Portal Avenue will become 20 by 24 inch "works of art" ...

Halloween will be fun and festive as the storefronts and windows on West Portal Avenue will become 20 by 24 inch "works of art" in a contest where children will paint and decorate the merchant windows in a **window painting and decoration contest**. Sponsored by the West Portal Merchants Association and the local Rotary Club, students from the first grade to the 10th grade will be working in teams to create their works of art, and to bring a festive and "scary" feel to West Portal Avenue.

The artwork is expected to be completed by October 24th and will be on display for judging through **Halloween**, with an awards ceremony in early November to celebrate and acknowledge the artists.

I've heard that over **40 merchants have signed on** for the event so it should be a fun time and bring a spark of color to the Avenue. To sign on or to get other information you can contact either Elliot Wagner at 415.731.8080 (Dimitra's), or Bob Scully at 415.239.4562 with the SF – West Rotary Club. It should be a fun and festive event.

Are we there yet? - Last month I asked this questions in reference to the **West Portal Avenue/St. Francis Circle project** that seemed to be taking forever. As soon as we hit the press, the cones disappeared and the boulevard was again "Open for Business." The new MUNI equipment, the pedestrian crossings, the sparkle of new concrete and asphalt and having WPA open again is a joy to us drivers, and no doubt to the merchants who had to persevere through the construction. A big "Thank you" to the Merchants and to MUNI and the construction crews who kept things moving during the large and disruptive process. Please keep them in mind when you are shopping as the economy is still not humming along, and our **small merchants and businesses** are highly dependant on residents/shoppers within 1-2 miles of West Portal Avenue.

What about you? If you have an interesting snippet, or some other fact you'd like to get into the paper just drop it to us. You can reach me at: mitch@WestsideObserver.com. Be sure to check out the *Observer* online @ www.WestsideObserver.com.

City Spending (Cont. from p. 1)

is difficult to eliminate public employees; all possible steps are taken to avoid painful layoffs. This means that public employment tends to ratchet upward.

In good times and lean it is tempting to promise *future* benefits which do not come from current funds. Benefits ratchet up. For example, city retirees receive life-time medical benefits. How many private employers offer that?

Politicians shy from stopping the rise in public employment and its cost. It can be political suicide to defy unions of public employees, which control so much money and so many campaigners. It would be risky to defy special interests who demand more services, especially during good times, when most voters turn their attention to making their own hay while the sun shines.

How might the ratcheting up of city employment and spending be controlled? Perhaps the City Charter should limit public employment to some number per resident. Now there is on the order of one public employee for every twenty-eight residents, far more than in most cities across the nation. Perhaps this ratio should increase to no more than one City employee for each 35 residents. Compensation, too, might be limited to a percentage (perhaps 110%) of what is earned by the median private employee in the City. That way those working for the public would not be far richer than those who support them. But at present there is no movement in the direction of such a Charter amendment.

Apart from paying salaries to City workers and benefits to retirees, how does the City spend its annual budget? Professional and contract services account for more than one-third of what does not go to present and retired City employees, so the City also spends large on independent contractors. Aid and grants consume about 9.4% of what the City spends; the City pays outsiders to do good works. Debt service consumes almost 10% of spending, and this percentage will rise.

Where does the City get its funds? Property taxes provide one-fifth. Charges for services bring in one-third. One dollar in six is from the State or Feds. Payroll taxes, business taxes and fees, hotel room tax, and quite a number and variety of other sources bring in smaller sums of the more than six billion dollars needed to feed the hungry beast that is City government.

Does the City spend too much? This fiscal year's deficit is \$483 million; next year's is projected to be \$712 million. MUNI routinely collects about two dollars per five that it spends, yet no one proposes to increase the fare to five bucks. It is expensive to run a special City.

One City expense that is running wild is pension costs. Recently the Civil Grand Jury, which is a group of volunteer citizens, reported on how the City's pension expense is unsustainable. "The purpose of this report is to alert public officials and citizens that fundamental adjustments must be made to the City's employee pension program." In five years pension and health care costs will more than double, the Controller says. The Civil Grand Jury believes that the financial future of San Francisco is in jeopardy. Will citizens act in time?

Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

IF You're Going To San Francisco....

By Former Supervisor Tony Hall

I wasn't going to write a column about homelessness because my positions and programs that I initiated as a Supervisor were so maligned and twisted by the press and politicians who exploited the issue that I hate to get into it. But you, the good taxpayer and honest citizen, deserve to know what's going on, so here it is.

Homelessness in San Francisco is still a major issue despite all the time, energy and money that the City has expended in the past five years. Regardless of what count or survey has been conducted or manipulated, the problem still exists, and the latest census shows that there are at least as many if not more homeless people in San Francisco today than ever before. The only difference is that now we have institutionalized the industry, costing the taxpayers many, many hundreds of millions of dollars more, with questionable results. Neither the homeless, nor the people footing the bill, are being helped.

Having been involved with a number of programs dealing with homelessness for at least 11 years before I became a Supervisor, I felt that I knew enough about the problem to be able to propose real, effective, and fair solutions to this most nagging and persistent of problems facing San Francisco.

In my research and studies, I came to realize that many of the poor unfortunates classified in the "homeless" category were individuals who, for whatever reasons, need our help. I also came to realize that there was a fine line between helping and hurting them, as it was very easy to propose programs that would enslave them in a way of life that would preclude them from ever breaking the cycle of homelessness. Many people are homeless because they are addicted substance abusers - they need our help. Many are suffering from a state of mental illness or depression - they need our help. Many genuinely have fallen on bad times - they certainly need our help. Many are just people who are "gaming the system" - they do not need our help.

Identifying and treating the specific needs of each of these of these groups of people in a way that helps them on the road back to a positive and productive lifestyle is the answer. I also realize that resources to administer effective and positive treatment are limited in a City of 800,000 people, without the State taking responsibility.

Indeed, as a Supervisor, I spent more time working on this issue than I did anything else. I also spent an inordinate amount of time trying to educate and share with my colleagues on the Board my ideas, and I solicited their input because I was a strong believer that a collective effort on the part of all Board members was absolutely necessary to rectify the situation in our City. Little did I know that the political ambitions of a few of them would undermine any meaningful results and scuttle any effective programs. Once again, I was confronted by the hard realities that politics introduces into any issue, and the damage that it can do to the common good.

In January of 2002 I introduced legislation that banned the act of urinating and defecating on City streets. In the ensuing months, I was successful in getting it passed at the Board of Supervisors, albeit by a narrow vote. It set off a flurry of legislation by Board members who then realized that the subject of "Homelessness" made for good print. It certainly was the hot topic of the day, and a great way to advance one's political career. It was also very obvious that the public was becoming increasingly uneasy about this problem.

This banning of urination and defecation was my lead piece in a comprehensive seven point homeless program that I had been working on for the prior year, and on January 14th of 2002, I presented it to the Board for their constructive input and amendments as it wound its way through the legislative process.

In brief the program was as follows:

1. An ordinance prohibiting public urination and defecation.
2. A resolution urging the Recreation and Park Department and all other City departments to open up closed rest rooms, and to expand their hours of service, and urging the City to expand its contract with the JC DeCaux Company to provide additional facilities.
3. An ordinance making it City policy to double the number shelter beds and accompanying storage facilities to accommodate 5% of the City's population.
4. An ordinance that prohibited sleeping on the sidewalk.
5. An ordinance requiring the police Department and the District Attorney to post on website statistics relating to the enforcement of quality of life violations.
6. A resolution urging the Superior Court to create a special "quality of life" court.
7. A resolution amending the composition of the Local Homeless Coordinating Board by adding four new seats: 2 from the hospitality industry, and 2 from neighborhood or business associations.

When I introduced the above program, I reminded my colleagues that this was a "call to action." This was a situation that had to be addressed as soon as possible, and the very fact that we could not do everything was not an excuse to do nothing. We must try to assist the many addicted and mentally handicapped people on our streets, as well as those who have fallen on tough times, but we must not fall into the trap of tolerating a situation that is unhealthy, unhappy and unfair to all concerned. We must help where we can, but the bottom line is we must establish and enforce minimal standards of civil behavior.

Well, wouldn't you just know it? In the following months and years, homeless programs were flying all over the place by those hungry for publicity and political advancement. It was during this period of time that our present mayor decided he had better make his move or be left in the dust by those who were truly trying to do something about the homeless problem. After picking the brains of those who actually knew about the problem, he devised a questionable program with a catchy title and introduced it to the media rather than try to vet it through the legislative process of the Board of Supervisors, where it would be subject to scrutiny, analyzed, and if necessary, amended. Backed by an incredible amount of special interest money and hype, his media campaign took off, and lo and behold, here we are six years later spending 10 times as much to service the same number of homeless that we had in our City as in 2004. The multi-million dollar campaign, "Care not Cash" or PROPOSITION N as the measure was known when placed on the ballot, was one of the biggest and most expensive con jobs ever sold to the public. That program catapulted our current mayor into his present position.

When I opposed Care not Cash as a Supervisor, I was unmercifully bashed by the mainstream press, and the subject of numerous hit pieces and mailers by "campaign Newsom", portraying me as being soft on the homeless in my own district. I knew I would be hit hard, but I was willing to stand up and at least be honest to the public. PROP N was a very misleading and complicated piece of legislation, and the true facts and the eventual costs associated with the measure were only brought out after hours and hours of tedious legislative analysis and testimony by experts. It was no wonder that the package was easily sold to the voters who were hungry for some kind of action. They don't have the time to look into every detail, and I believe that is why we have elected representatives to do that work for them.

Cont. p. 18

Have You Joined Yet?

By Carol Kocivar

That's a pretty easy question. My guess is that almost everyone will answer, "Yes."

The next question is a little bit harder. "What can I do in my community to help?"

As someone once said, "Let me count the ways."

And let me count the ways that parents in our community are helping children by joining the PTA.

Last week, I was at Lowell High School and a PTSA father was volunteering in the bookstore helping to sell school materials. *Find out more: <http://www.lowellptsa.org/volunteer.html>*

The PTA at Herbert Hoover Middle School keeps parents well informed through email news about up coming events—from a beach clean up to planning parent programs at the school. *Find out more: http://sfpta.org/Hoover/HHMS2005/html/hoover%20happenings/Happenings_Current.htm*

Just up the hill at the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts PTSA, parents have put together a web site listing all kinds of activities that support the students—including a school beautification day! *Find out more: <http://www.sfota-ptsa.org/>* You can even sign up for email alerts notifying you about up coming student performances!

The number-one reason to join the Parent Teacher Association is to benefit your child.

- But there are many more advantages. Here are just a few:
- **Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.
 - **Discover Great Resources.** The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.
 - **Tap into a Network.** PTA functions provide opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, build rapport and discuss parenting issues that are on your mind.
 - **Watch yourself Grow.** By volunteering with your PTA, you gain valuable experiences and personal confidence. It's an opportunity to put your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause.
 - **Speak Up.** Because PTA is a forum for exchanging ideas, you are encouraged to make suggestions and more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
 - **Help Your Child Succeed.** PTA fosters parent involvement. Parent involvement has been proven by three decades of research to be the greatest predictor of student success.
 - **Witness Improvement.** By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping to make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role in fundraising to provide building improvements, curriculum-based programs, social events – all vital to a school's success.
 - **Be a Role Model.** By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.

Anyone who chooses to support PTA can become a member. PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer organization working on behalf of public schools, children and families.

You can join the PTA at your school or –if by chance you don't have children at a PTA school or your kids have graduated— you can still join!

Golden State PTA is a statewide organization allowing individuals and businesses without a local school affiliation to join PTA and maintain contact with California State PTA. When you become a member of Golden State PTA, you join with California's statewide membership in support of the education, health, and well-being of children and youth.

Want to help children? Join PTA: www.capta.org

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Ballot Politics (Cont. from p. 8)

Not to mention the fear and anger caused to neighborhood residents and businesses by being continually threatened by the people they must walk by. This is a neighborhood character and quality-of-life issue. The police are doing their jobs, but the justice system is ineffectual and almost everyone cited is back on the streets within a day. Vote yes on Proposition L, as it has the potential to stop the bullying and intimidation of innocent pedestrians and local merchants.

Not to be outdone, Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi introduced Proposition M, the Community Policing and Foot Beat Patrols ordinance, and gave Mayor Newsom a strong dose of his own dirty-politics. Proposition M would establish "a comprehensive foot beat patrol in all police stations." Foot Patrols have proven to be crime deterrents and helped to create good relationships between the police and the community.

The SFPD is already using foot patrols when they can. San Francisco Chief of Police, George Gascon, stated, "Unfortunately, the Board of Supervisors placed a counter measure on the ballot, Proposition M, which calls for more foot patrols. It sounds harmless but you need to read the fine print. Embedded inside Prop. M is a 'poison pill' to override our vote on Proposition L/Civil Sidewalks, and frankly we can reduce crime without dictating police deployment through the ballot box. This is not the hallmark of a world-class police department."

This is the "poison pill" language that Supervisor Mirkarimi used in Proposition M: "If section 2 of this ordinance is unenforceable because the voters approve, with more votes than this ordinance, a City ordinance (Proposition L) at the November 2, 2010 election that bans lying or sitting on public sidewalks, then it is the voter's intent that the balance of this ordinance shall be enforceable." This language means that if Mirkarimi's Proposition M wins, Newsom's Sit/Lie, Proposition L will be erased.

Another black-eye for City politics. Vote yes on Proposition L and No on Proposition M.

Finally, the worst example of bad governance on this year's ballot came from what wasn't placed on the ballot. The mayor's office strong-armed the David Chiu-led BOS to negotiate away non-budgetary ballot measures without even a vote so that the BOS would receive a guarantee of \$44 million in budgetary add-backs from the Mayor. Heretofore, San Francisco had a time-honored history of keeping the negotiation of budgetary items separate from non-budgetary items. Newsom wins this battle, but plenty of embarrassment and shame to be shared by all who were involved.

No wonder fewer and fewer people vote in San Francisco. "Yes" means "No," and up means down. Heated political battles, personal feuds, and vendettas are casually thrown to the voters. Propositions are complex and contain hidden agendas, while intimidation keeps worthy propositions off of the ballot.

The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office need to work together and do a better job of legislating San Francisco's issues, and representing their constituencies. It should not be voters' responsibility to both legislate and keep City politics out of the gutter.

Please remember to vote on November 2.

Feedback: wooding@westsideobserver.com

ON THE PLUS SIDE By Hank Basayne

LARS DIDN'T DO IT

As I continue getting somewhat long in the tooth—a few of you may be like me in that regard—I can remember way back to my early school days when I was required to memorize some lengthy classic poems. It amazes me how exercise implants that poetry into the marrow. I can't tell you for sure what I had for dinner last Thursday, but I could put you to sleep reciting some Walter de la Mare—and don't get me started on Shelley's "My Name is Ozymandias, King of Kings."

Along with The Three Rs, it was a given that by the time you clambered into high school you could identify and accurately recite at least some of the gems of English literature. And, because the mind of a kid is a sponge, the words that I soaked up then—if I didn't yet get their full import—remain with me almost three-quarters of a century later.

I can still tell you what Abu Ben Adam saw within the moonlight in his room, what it is like to wander lonely as a cloud and find a host of golden daffodils, why the "luv" of Robert Burns was like a red, red rose, and why Tennyson wanted no moaning at the bar when he put out to sea. I can get all the way to why April is the cruelest month, and repeat what the raven quoth.

I don't take any particular pride in or credit for this—my memory is about the usual, although the short-term memory is spotty—but the panic that ensued when I thought the teacher might call on me to recite focuses the mind wonderfully. Powerful motivation, indeed.

I understand now why reading and memorizing poetry is as important as knowing what happened in 1789, in 1848, in 1933, in 1945 and in 2001. For me, the continuing study of history is like eating celery: I'd never order it, but if it's there, I'll chomp on it—and even derive some satisfaction from the cool crunch. As I continue to age—the alternative is unattractive—I am more and more inclined to look back, way back, to try to understand the absurd and preposterous twists and turns of the human journey.

We can draw a line from Pilate through Ptolemy, the Caesars, Louis the XIV, Rasputin and Himmler, all the way to certain current politicians and legislators and be overwhelmed with the prevalence of dishonesty, bribery, immorality and impurity. But history as she is writ is not history as she is made. History is told by the winners and whatever goodness was inherent in the losers is blown in the wind and covered by the sands of time.

Mostly, but not always.

Like you, I watch my pennies carefully, but acting on an impulse I don't fully understand, I recently purchased some very ancient history. As I began to browse through a tome titled The Etruscans (isn't that where you'd start?) the tiny bit I thought I knew about these early Italians was shown to be dead wrong.

What I thought I knew I had learned from memorizing a poem in high school by Thomas Macauley. It began "Lars Porsena of Clusium, by the Nine Gods he swore, that the great house of Tarquin would suffer wrong no more..." Or something like that.

Lars was king of Etruria, if you'll cast your mind back to the 6th Century B.C., and reportedly was prevented from leading his expedition against Rome, turned back by the bravery of Horatius. Remember Horatio at the bridge? Not! It didn't happen that way at all. Macauley had swallowed the Roman version, written much later by Tacitus, a classic case of cover up.

Actually, Porsena did not flee, but entered, conquered and occupied Rome and became its ruler. The later Roman historians found it unflattering that the upstart Etruscans had made hash of them. So they re-wrote the story and reversed the outcome. Poor Lars.

Isn't history fun? Next time I'll give you the real skinny on Marie Antoinette.

Hank Basayne is a San Franciscan who wonders what future historians will say about us
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Laguna Honda Hospital's Red Flags

By Patrick Monette-Shaw

It is thought all City employees are bound to comply with San Francisco's Administrative Code, since none of them are thought to be above the law or hold authority to amend the Code, unilaterally.

When last month's issue went to press, I reported Deputy City Controller Monique Zmuda was scheduled to return to LHH to conduct a review of LHH's gift fund accounting practices. On August 25, Zmuda indicated her "audits group" would conduct a "review" of LHH's patient gift fund to determine whether LHH had administered the fund in accordance with the municipal code. She indicated re-allocation of \$100,000 in "interest earned" might be re-performed based on the "reasonableness" of the initial interest allocation to staff education accounts (as reported recently on Ch. 7) rather than to patients. She also indicated if there was a departure from the Administrative Code, her group would determine under what authority practices had been amended.

Whistleblower doctors Derek Kerr and Maria Rivero are former LHH physicians who have been investigating disbursements from LHH's patient gift fund for nearly a year. It appears from their research that there were few accounting controls in place and that the patient gift fund may have been used like a petty-cash drawer, since many of the checks and balances to prevent abuse of the funds had been eliminated.

Without an independent audit, the accounting red flags will likely increase.

San Francisco's Director of Public Health, Mitch Katz, MD, issued a press release on September 2, claiming DPH had requested the Controller's Office conduct a "detailed audit" of LHH's patient gift fund. Even before the audit was underway, he prematurely concluded that "there has not been a single instance in which funds designated for patients were used for any other purpose." Katz is wrong. There appear to be multiple instances in which patient funds were used for other purposes.

On September 1, 2010, doctors Rivero and Kerr submitted a second report to the Health Commission, Civil Grand Jury, and the Whistleblower Program administered by the City Controller's Office, regarding potential cost-shifting of previous hospital operating expenses onto LHH's patient gift fund account, suggesting \$745,000 may have gone missing from LHH's patient gift fund between 2004 and 2005.

The next day, Dr. Katz issued a press release, claiming a minor error in deposits of funds intended for patients, "had no impact on expenditures for patients," and "in no way influenced the amount of money available for patient activities."

The following day, September 3, the City Controller's Office released for the first time news that an "Investment Balance" sub-account may exist within the patient gift fund. It was news to everybody who has been following this scandal.

Could it be that the various detailed analyses by Drs. Kerr and Rivero gave the City no choice but to finally conduct a deeper audit?

Among other red flags Kerr and Rivero uncovered, they report depletion of major bequests and trusts left to the patient gift fund. In the six years between 2004 and 2010, almost \$2 million vanished from the bequests and trusts donated for LHH patients exclusively, depleting these sub-accounts. Some \$1,581,882 was pulled out of the three big bequests (the Martin Heller, William Lenahan, and Marie Lewis bequests) in 2005 alone!



B2B – BART to the Beach: Let's Begin the Dialogue

By James Fang, President, BART Board of Directors

Imagine a time in the future when BART trains whisk commuters underground to stations in San Francisco's Western Addition and the Richmond districts. BART passengers could enter stations along Geary Boulevard all the way to Ocean Beach. Sound difficult? Maybe not.

The time is now right to begin the dialogue with residents and stakeholders of San Francisco - particularly the Westside of San Francisco - to see if it is feasible to bring BART to the Beach.

For years regional rail planners and BART have looked at the idea of extending the system west toward the ocean. There is good reason. The Geary Boulevard corridor is one of the most heavily used transit routes in America, carrying over 100,000 transit trips per day on buses. Yet it can be a long, slow ride. It's been suggested that it takes longer to get downtown on transit from "The Richmond" than it does from (the City of) Richmond.

Jobs and On-Time, Green Transit

Think of how seamless and convenient the commute would be, not to mention the jobs created for San Franciscans if BART to the Beach became a reality. Construction, operations and indirect jobs would be created by the nation's greenest transit agency expansion to the Beach, and would contribute to the economic revitalization of San Francisco and the Westside - neighborhoods where many of us, like my wife and I, live, shop, dine and look forward to raising a family.

Our friends at MUNI have done a yeomen's effort in transporting riders from San Francisco's western neighborhoods. BART has complemented MUNI by delivering 96 percent on-time service and taking 330,000 daily riders out of cars – meaning less pollution and congestion. BART's reliability is reflected in surveys where nearly nine of ten riders would recommend the system.

Go West, San Francisco

The Sunset, Richmond and Western Addition represent the largest population base in the city and largest geographic areas as well. These neighborhood businesses and residents would be well served by

rapid transit service to all parts of the Bay Area. MUNI has taken the leadership in planning exclusive bus lanes in the median along Geary Boulevard, but only west of Fillmore Street.

Over the years there has been significant public interest in having BART extend westward instead of buses. On one hand, MUNI service is favored because it appears more feasible in the short term. That may be true, but in the longer term there is merit in considering a BART alternative.

Clearly, BART over the years has shown its ability to design and operate such an extension.

BART planners expect that by the year 2050, 800,000 riders will use rapid transit rails daily – a nearly half million increase over the 330,000 daily riders using BART today.

BART Bears Funding Burden

To accommodate those passenger loads, the system needs significant upgrades. BART would bear the financial responsibility of the BART to the Beach extension so the burden would not fall exclusively on San Franciscans to construct a second "transbay tube." This, in effect, would create a second BART line to San Francisco with additional stations, easing the burden on already congested facilities in the city and enhancing regional sustainability.

A recent regional rail planning study recommended a BART transbay tunnel with a new San Francisco line possibly linking Alameda with the south of Market area by the year 2050. That study also took a preliminary look at a Geary Boulevard extension.

I believe a "BART to the Beach," as some have coined it, is worth further study. Sure, it's probably a future dream. But so was BART itself. Consider this: planning for the Bay Area Rapid Transit system began in the mid 1950's. The first trains didn't start operating until nearly twenty years later.



James Fang



B2B Logo/Not paid at taxpayer expense Paid for by FANG for BART Committee, 809 Sacramento St. SF 94108, FPPC 902200 • FangForBART.com • Facebook/FangForBART

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DEMOCRAT

BERT hill

BART BOARD

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“Bert Hill gets it and he has truly visionary ideas about making BART work better for San Francisco.”

Jason Henderson
Professor SFSU

Read more testimonials at www.Bert4BART.org

“SF deserves a better BART!”

www.Bert4BART.org

Bert Hill with his grandson and future BART rider, Warren, photographed by Mich  l Mustacchi

Endorsements (Partial List)

The Democratic Party

Supervisor David Chiu*
Supervisor Sean Elsbernd*
Supervisor David Campos*
Supervisor John Avalos*
Supervisor Eric Mar*
Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi*

Democratic Clubs

Richmond District Democratic Club
Irish-American Democratic Club
Mexican-American Democratic Club
Democratic Women's Forum of SF
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Other Organizations (in random order)

Sierra Club
San Francisco Tomorrow
SF League of Conservation Voters
San Francisco Bicycle Coalition
Rescue Muni
SF Green Party
SF Women's Political Committee
San Francisco for Democracy

Labor (BART)

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555
AFSCME Local 3993
SEIU 1021

*Titles for identification purposes only, not intended as agency endorsement

SF Business VOTES 2010

Vote for a Better Economic Future on November 2!

The November General Election Ballot contains critical initiatives that will impact San Francisco residents and businesses for years to come. Join your neighbors, local merchants and SF Forward in voting for jobs and a better economic future on November 2, 2010!

VOTE YES

Prop A Earthquake Retrofit Bond

Prop G Fix Muni Now

Prop H Prohibit Dual Office Holding

Prop K Hotel Tax Clarification

Prop L Civil Sidewalks

VOTE NO

Prop C Force Mayor to Appear at Board Hearings

Prop J Job Killing Hotel Tax Increase

Prop M Board of Supervisors Managing Police Department

Prop N Job Killing Property Transfer Tax

Prop 23 Protect Landmark Clean Energy Law (AB 32)

Prop 24 Jobs Tax

Learn more at: www.sfchamber.com/votingguide

SF Forward – the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce – is the political voice for businesses and residents who support sound economic policy and an exceptional quality of life for all San Franciscans.
www.sfchamber.com/sfforward

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Life on the Line

A Muni driver talks about driving and politics

By Doug Comstock

Muni bus driver Howard Nelson has hazy memories of the drivers' strike in 1976. He remembers riding his bike past crowds of people walking to their jobs, desperately trying to hail already-packed cabs, and venerable little-old-ladies discreetly holding a thumb up to catch a ride. "We may see that again," he said.

It's hard to talk to Nelson as he drives his bus. There is not a lot of conversation between the bus driver, and the 350-500 people he transports through treacherous traffic each day. At most, riders get a nod as they present their various passes, transfers or occasionally pay in cash.

At "40 plus," Nelson handles the 14 Mission Express, with a calm certainty. He keeps one eye on the traffic behind him as he stares straight ahead and hands a transfer to one passenger, assuring another, an anxious lady who speaks little English, that he will make sure she knows when the bus gets to Cortland. He jabs himself then points to his mouth as he says "Cortland" loudly. She smiles confidently and takes a seat behind him. Mostly, he keeps both hands on the steering wheel. Signs directing passengers to "avoid unnecessary conversation with the driver" are prominently displayed and discourage friendly chatter.

He sat for a chat at an outdoor table of a coffeeshop near the Bus terminal at 15th and Harrison, a rare industrial patch that has escaped gentrification. Ignoring the September chill, he warmed both hands on his paper cup. He was happy to talk about his job.

"I've been driving a bus now for over 11 years, not counting the part-time driving," he said with a proud smile. He has a perfect driving record. It's one of the reasons he chose to become a driver when his previous full-time job at Schlage Lock moved to Denver. "If they were still here, I'd still be there," he said. "San Francisco is where my roots are, but that old job had better wages and benefits than I get from the City."

...renewing on that piece of the charter—the part that promises drivers the second-highest wage of any transit workers in the country in exchange for promising not to strike—that sounds like a deal-breaker.

He first stepped foot in San Francisco when he was 4 years old, moving here with his mother, his sole provider. She found work more plentiful than it had been in New Orleans. Driving a bus provides for his wife and two children. Mentioning his "kids," a broad smile brightens his face, revealing a father's pride and a beautiful set of white teeth below a wispy moustache with more than a few gray hairs.

"It is a long, hard day for Muni drivers," he said, the smile disappearing. The typical day starts before most people are awake. His bus must be at the first stop at 6:25 AM for the beginning of the commute. "Sometimes, between runs, we get 10 or 15 minutes for coffee," but drivers have to be cautious about liquids, as rest stops are not allowed. "You can't just park the bus and walk away. Sometimes there are facilities at the end of a trip, sometimes there are none," he said, turning both hands up. Then there's the down time from 11:17 to 1:27, unpaid 'dead time.' It takes 12 hours to work the commute but you only get paid for 10." By the end of Nelson's commute, it's 6:30.

The danger worries him too. "There were 2,500 incidents reported on coaches last year," he said. "We're vulnerable—we have to do cops work, social work, hospital work—with no weapons and no authority. All we can do is ask people to behave and threaten to call the police, but by the time they get there it's usually too late. Most incidents don't get reported, because of the downtime and paperwork. Night shift is even tougher."

Tonight the union meeting is on Nelson's mind. "All the drivers are worried about Proposition G," he said, frowning impatiently as the discussion turned to Supervisor Sean Elsbernd's November ballot proposition. "Drivers are feeling scapegoated. There will be a lot of unhappy folks tonight." Union meetings are members only, and a strike is likely to be discussed even though it is forbidden by Sec. A8.346 of the City's charter. It requires that drivers be terminated and lose their seniority—they would be hired back as rookies—if they resort to a strike. However, the City's Municipal Code also forbids hiring strikebreakers, which paints the City into a lose-lose corner.

Nelson points to the Prop G literature he brought with him; "Elsbernd says he wants to change the charter to 'let Muni operators be treated like every other city worker,' but he doesn't mention his own salary," he said. It's a similar charter stipulated mechanism; Elsbernd's salary is based on salaries in other cities as well, but he makes twice as much as drivers. At \$29.16 an hour, drivers are not among the highest-paid City workers.

"I don't know why the voters are picking on us," he said "renewing on that piece of the charter—the part that promises drivers the second-highest wage of any transit workers in the country in exchange for promising not to strike—that sounds like deal-breaker. Contra Costa's SamTrans drivers are the third highest paid drivers in the country," he adds.

"The last bus strike lasted 37 days," Nelson said. According to an *SF Chronicle* editorial written May 7, the day after the strike ended, it was "one of the longest strikes of public employees in United States history." It cited the costs to the economy, to business and the City as well as to people "who are being inconvenienced by the shutdown of buses and cable cars, by littered streets, by a deteriorating Golden Gate Park, by cascading waters from broken water mains, by unusable toilets..."

Bus drivers joined that strike in sympathy for City crafts workers. If the drivers strike now, other unions would likely follow suit. But the word "strike" is curiously absent from discourse as voters proceed to a ballot that may just trigger another one.

"If the voters defeat Prop B, we won't have to worry about whether drivers will still honor the 'no strike' clause," Nelson said, "being illegal didn't prevent a strike before," referring to the strike of '76 that ignored Judge Clayton Horn's Injunction. "It's up to the voters, if they choose to break the contract we'll find out."

Coincidentally, the '76 strike revolved around two anti-union measures that were on the ballot: Prop E, which would fire City workers who strike and Prop K, a two year pay freeze. Both were put on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors, but were withdrawn in the settlement brokered by Mayor Moscone.

Bus driver Stanford Johns, driving a packed 5 McAllister, agrees with Nelson, "drivers are not the problem. The public is mad about the scheduling, so are we. It's not the drivers who control the scheduling," he said, wincing as he passed a stop without picking up waiting passengers. "We can't make a bus suddenly appear. We can only work with what they give us," he said to the passengers crammed into the isle and in the well of his bus.

"I might need to start looking for that old bike again," Nelson said.



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105 Gladeview	3	2	2	1,283	05/25/10	675,000	675,000
26 Greenview Ct	3	2	2	N/A	05/03/10	750,000	771,000
481 Dellbrook Ave	3	2	1	N/A	04/16/10	729,000	772,000
156 Midcrest Way	3	2	1	1,490	04/29/10	799,000	785,000
254 Dellbrook Ave	4	2	2	1,548	06/17/10	799,000	805,000
123 Dellbrook Ave.	3	2	2 Tandem	1576	10/30/09	750,000	805,000
33 Longview Ct.	4	3	1	N/A	05/14/10	799,000	882,000

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Guided walks exploring San Francisco's historic Land's End are offered every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month and begin with a continental breakfast at the Cliff House. For more information or to make a reservation call the Gift Shop at 415-666-4006 or visit www.cliffhouse.com/history/Johns_Walk.html.



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Constant Support in a Constantly Changing World

Court Appointed Special Advocates a Mainstay in the Lives of SF Foster Children

By Molly Oleson

On the day he was born, Anthony Pico entered the San Francisco foster care system. His drug-addicted mother disappeared from the hospital, leaving him with poison running through his system, no home and no one to fight for him.

By 14, he had lived in three separate placements, and by 18, he had attended six different high schools. Shuffled between social workers, therapists, lawyers and group homes, he was starved for stability

At 21, Pico is three years out of emancipating from foster care, and living on his own in Sacramento. He's a legislative aide and a third-year student at Sacramento City College.

Dark sunglasses can't hide his animation when he speaks of one of the things that saved him from slipping through the cracks of an over-burdened social welfare system: the San Francisco Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

"I don't think I'd be where I am today, had it not been for my CASA," Pico says outside the Sunset's Java Beach Café, the late afternoon sun glazing his round face a golden orange before slipping below the Pacific.

SFCASA, a non-profit agency that trains community volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in the San Francisco Juvenile Dependency Court System, assigned a teenage Pico a mentor, or CASA, who became his guiding light

Pico exemplifies the ultimate goal of SFCASA: to help ensure that every one of the city's approximately 1,300 foster kids is placed in a safe, permanent home.

The organization, supported by grants and corporate and individual donations, was established in 1991 and is one of more than 900 affiliate programs across the country. Volunteers are rigorously screened and complete 40 hours of professional training in areas such as child development, mandated reporting and dependency law.

Upon making an 18-month commitment to advocate for a child, CASAs are sworn in as officers of the court. Reporting to a judge every six months, they submit a case report addressing the child's needs and recommending the best possible outcome for his or her future.



A CASA spending time with her foster child

Knowing what's best comes from spending one-on-one time with them, reviewing records, researching information and talking to everyone involved in the child's life — from social workers, attorneys and judges to parents, teachers and doctors.

"We make a point of seeing them in all of their environments, so we can have a full view of where they are as humans, and what their needs may be," says Maya Durrett, former CASA and current SFCASA Program Director.

The needs are typically high for San Francisco's 0-18 year-old victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. They spend a large chunk of childhood on the move, averaging five different homes and nine different schools over an average of five years in the foster care system.

On top of the trauma of being removed from their families, most children have been exposed to substance abuse, domestic violence or mental illness. They often suffer from learning disabilities and emotional or developmental problems.

For Jenn Fallon, a CASA living in West Portal, the tragic circumstances that land kids in the system are heart-wrenching. "It's challenging from a human perspective," she says, "to see kids suffer like that."

Fallon says that while the professionals who are paid to be in the lives of foster kids are well-meaning, they usually fall short when it comes to devoting a significant amount of time to them.

"The social work system is, in general, spread really thin," says Fallon, noting overwhelming case loads and lawyers who meet children only minutes before court hearings. "[We] are another group of people keeping our eyes on kids in fragile situations."

Sally Coates, Executive Director of SFCASA, says that the city's most vulnerable youth have been repeatedly let down by adults promising to do good things and then disappearing.

"These children are not necessarily waiting on the doorstep for someone to come and love them," Coates says.

But in a world of impermanence, CASAs provide the constant presence that is usually missing but desperately needed. Weekly visits build a trusting bond that may be one of the few positive relationships the child has.

"When one person keeps returning, it speaks volumes," Durrett says. "They can't believe their CASAs are not paid to be there. It's profound for them."

Gail Nebenzahl, 72, a CASA who has volunteered hundreds of hours to mentoring foster youth over the past eight years, knows the importance of "being there." On top of making sure their needs were met, she gave her foster kids caring companionship, taking them to the beach, museums, the zoo, photography classes and redwood forests. Surprising one of the young girls with singing lessons remains one of her most vibrant memories.

"It was something she always wanted to do," Nebenzahl says, her smile growing bigger with pride. And then she turns serious.

"With these children, there's a very dark side," she says, cupping a cobalt blue mug of tea in her sunny kitchen. "They've experienced what you and I cannot imagine."

Three of the children Nebenzahl advocated for were removed from their families of origin after being subjected to violence, drugs and alcohol. On one occasion she found herself walking through an abandoned squat house with the five-year-old. A place with



Judge Donna Hitchens

(Cont. on p. 22)

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City College Update

By Dr. Anita Grier

Since my election to Community College, I have focused on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have been an educator and administrator all of my life. I taught Special Education for twelve years, most currently at Denman Middle School. I'm keeping my focus on these major issues that face CCSF:

- **Implementing the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance,** specifically the documents element. As the college lays plans to go to the voters for another Bond, I'm concerned that the general public has lost faith in the leadership of the Administration and the Board of Trustees. We need to demonstrate that we are willing to change the way we do business, and the best way to do that is by adopting the voter initiated Sunshine laws that drive the City's meeting and records procedures.
- **Better program integration with high schools** to prepare students for college. I'll continue to focus on keeping higher education affordable and available to everyone. I have always worked to increase funding and lower tuition. I support remedial programs, but believe students spend more time in those courses than is necessary. We need to do a better job of raising their basic academic skills before they come to college level classes.
- **Tuition Free College Classes.** I'll continue the cooperative groundwork I've begun within the educator communities of the State and federal levels to accomplish a seamless student matriculation, and shared classrooms and faculty.

Of course there are other major issues that confront the Board. The College should set the example for business and residents in energy efficient lighting systems, high efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, computerized energy management control systems, boiler efficiency improvements, energy recovery systems and building shell improvements. CCSF Planning must put Green Building at the top of the list for developments it proposes for both housing and business. Our transportation improvements must be driven by the same principles.

We also have a role in neighborhood planning around our campuses. The most common input from neighbors involves "troubled youth" and that is unfortunate. As a 30-year veteran of some of the toughest high schools in the City, I have dealt with the bad apples and I know when a little tough love is effective and when more drastic measures are needed to turn around young lives. I have served as Program Administrator of "Special Education" at several of our problem sites. The newly dedicated Multi-Use Building on the main campus is a LEEDS silver green building and was developed through community cooperation that is a model for future endeavors.

Though my focus has been academic and much of my life has been devoted to equal opportunity, diversity, ADA compliance and special education for learning disabled students, beyond my concerns as a professional, I care about the future. I think about my high school and college students and I wonder where they will live once they leave their parents and how they will live in a world that has so little to offer in terms of a security. As San Franciscans, these problems continually face us.

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- Threaten jobs and livelihood

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State Senator Leland Yee says:
“Proposition B is the wrong
answer for San Francisco.”

NO ON B
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PROP B WILL DOUBLE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE COSTS

Prop B will double health care costs for thousands of children, spouses and domestic partners of San Francisco School, Community College, Superior Court and City workers—regardless of their ability to pay.

A SINGLE PARENT WILL PAY UP TO \$5,600 MORE PER YEAR

The real impact of Prop B on working families is staggering. Under Prop B, a single mother with one dependent could be forced to pay up to \$5,600 more per year for health care—in addition to the \$8,154 she already pays. Many other employees will see their costs more than double.

A CUSTODIAN WILL PAY AS MUCH AS THE TOP BRASS

Prop B forces the custodian making only \$40,000 per year to pay the same hike in health insurance premiums as the top brass, who could be making three times as much. Many of these workers are already struggling to afford health care, and this literally takes food off their table.

COULD COST SAN FRANCISCO \$100 MILLION IN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Prop B was so poorly written, the Director of the San Francisco Health Care Service System has written it could make the City ineligible for more than \$23 million in federal funding for health care next year and up to \$100 million over the next four years.

United Against Prop B

California Nurses Association

United Educators of San Francisco

San Francisco Democratic Party

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

Mayor Gavin Newsom

State Senator Mark Leno

State Senator Leland Yee

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano

Sheriff Michael Hennessey

Board President David Chiu

STANDING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES, NO ON B, A COALITION OF TEACHERS, NURSES, FIREFIGHTERS, PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AND HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES. MAJOR FUNDING BY SAN FRANCISCO FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 798 AND SEIU LOCAL 1021, 150 POST STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108, FPPC# 1329001

Canine Massage in San Francisco

Animals are important to mankind as they aid in the balance in nature known as “the web of life”. On a more personal note, these wonderful furry friends bring so much joy and unconditional love into our lives. It’s truly a wonderful life changing experience to have a pet when you are ready for it. In taking responsibility as a pet owner, there’s a lot to learn about the care of our dog or cat. In the beginning, we research the best type of pet and breed for our life style and family dynamic as each breed has its own distinct characteristics. Once we find the right pet, we then must figure out a healthy diet for the pet and find a local Veterinarian.

There are many choices today in choosing a Vet. I just recently found a holistic office in Pacifica for dogs and cats and was so pleased with the unique care given. Our little five pound Chihuahua, Charlie, received Chiropractic adjustments in his jaw, spine and hips that changed the funny little gait he had that seemed to originate from his left hind leg. It was amazing to watch the difference in him. The doctor also recommended we cook for him, as little dogs sometimes have dietary issues. Boy, does he love that! Now, the “Pack” sits down to a home-cooked meal.

Because humans are part of the animal family, it’s no wonder what is good for us is also very important in the health and vitality of our pet. I’d like to introduce you to Michelle Geisler, a Certified Canine Massage Therapist.

Michelle has been in practice for over a year here in San Francisco. She was trained at the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage in Colorado. She specializes in Therapeutic and Sports Massage for Canines. She’s also a Healing Touch for Animals Practitioner (HTA) and, recently, added pet sitting to her repertoire.

It all began after she rescued 2 German Shepherd brothers from the pound when they were 6 months old. Ozzy had hip dysplasia and Randy had Lupus on his nose. Both dogs had several surgeries over the years. As they aged, arthritis set in. The doctor wanted Randy to have an MRI for his neck and she couldn’t afford it. She figured humans go to Chiropractors for neck issues so why not try it for Randy. The adjustments worked for him immediately and the Chiropractor suggested massage would help both dogs. This was Michelle’s calling!

Therapeutic Massage: a non-invasive therapy incorporated into a total health care regimen of the dog. It’s used to promote general well-being, boost circulatory and immune systems by encouraging circulation, muscle tone, digestion and skin tone. It greatly contributes to relaxing the nervous system.

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Sports Massage: a therapy used before an event to increase blood flow to the muscles, promote flexibility, energizes, and prepares the dog for the event or exercise to help prevent injury.

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RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

For the upcoming election, San Francisco voters who live in Supervisorial Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 will use ranked-choice voting to elect their Member of the Board of Supervisors.

Citywide, voters will use ranked-choice voting to elect the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender.

With ranked-choice voting, the names of all the candidates are listed in three repeating columns on the ballot. This allows voters to rank up to three different candidates for the same office.

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Learn More!
View an interactive demonstration of how ranked-choice voting works at www.sfelections.org/demo

Shakespeare in Love: Ashland



The old Chinese proverb says that the longest trip starts with a single step. What they didn’t say is that you shouldn’t try to go across the Bay Bridge on the day that the tolls go up an additional dollar. Fortunately, it wasn’t all that bad considering that we had our chops set for one of those salami and cheese sandwiches on a crunchy French roll at Granzela’s Delicatessen in Williams—my favorite, head

cheese and cheese, light on the Mayo. We’ve been there before and it didn’t take us long to place the order and start munching. So maybe it was only 11:15 in the morning but it sure tasted great, and the Dryer’s ice-cream that followed should have made us feel guilty but nobody we know saw us so that made it OK to our retired minds.

We were headed for Ashland, Oregon for a few days of theater and a little celebrating of July 4th. The ride up was easy enough, the scenery spectacular. The truckers may own Highway 5 but they still left a lot for us to enjoy. The Pines and Firs are a glorious green, Mount Shasta’s still draped with snow that sparkles in the afternoon sun while boaters are waterskiing on the crystal clear water of Shasta Lake. Overhead, a hundred contrails melt through the billowy clouds hiding the full moon that would astound us that evening.

Driving all day and heading for a play that evening is a formula for disaster but we did stay awake and survived “The Royal Family” without so much as a yawn. Our dinner at Omar’s before the show was a real treat and for fifty bucks per couple including cocktails and wine it was not only good but cheap! And we’re going back.

Ashland has grown up and learned to smile since our last visit almost 10 years ago. The old stores are still good and the new ones are a paradise for the ladies. A friend took us to a wine store that has a treasure of Italian wines sprinkled with some delicious local labels making our selection a very difficult process; fortunately for us Lorenzo was quite adept at suggesting and recommending.

An early lunch at Lela’s Bakery and Café primed us for an early dinner at The Peerless Restaurant where we ate “al fresco,” a perfect prelude for the Elizabethan Stage at the Allen Pavilion Theater. “Much Ado About Nothing” was produced in modern garb but unfortunately for me the prose was all Shakespeare. That Prosciutto Wrapped Saddle of Oregon Rabbit that I so enjoyed at dinner kept asking me if I understood any of what was being said. Sadly, my honest answer had to be “Not Much!”

The Allen Pavilion alone is worth the trip to Ashland. Open to the sky, it wraps around a beautiful stage that changes appearance as the evening grows darker. The fire-flies compete with the stars that compete with the actors. For good behavior, sitting through the production I was treated to an ice cream cone from BJ’s that made it all worth while.

The following day we attended the matinee at the Angus Bowmer Theater and “The Visit” managed to keep us wide awake even after a very pleasant lunch, a nice Pinot Gris and a three hour production. Great story about revenge, greed and money. Fortunately for me, I did the three plays and now we can go back to dinner at eight, an extra glass of wine and no fear of being cracked in the ribs because I’m dozing off.

Sunday was the Fourth, the parade route was lined with chairs and blankets for the spectators and it was Red, White and Blue all the way. A true American Fourth of July celebration. As I’ve said so many times before “Good Bless America.”

“All’s Well” is the perfect name for the guest house where we stayed for four days and to round it off “As You Like It” sits right next door. So very Shakespeare! The seven-room Inn is a block off Main Street and a comfortable walk to the center of town, no need for wheels.

The best part was that it was just a block away from the parade route and what a parade Ashland put on! I can’t remember the last parade I watched first hand and this one really took the prize.

The parade was rural America at its best, the Fire Department with sirens blaring, the Forest Service with shiny yellow trucks, the Police Department on motorcycles proudly following the Bag Pipers, Miss Ashland waving to the hundreds lining the streets. We didn’t get any of the candy and beads that were being tossed out to the crowd but we did get a bunch of great video. The entire town was buzzing and the city park was jammed with young and old alike. Stands lined the park paths with all sorts of food, drinks and crafts from every trade. We got so tired from watching that it took a couple of beers and a hefty lunch to keep us going. Sunday night the fireworks went off all night long and I imagine it must have been quite interesting watching “Henry the VI” in the outdoor theater with the fireworks going off during the battle scenes on stage.

Don’t know if we’ll be ready to do the 8 hour drive again anytime soon but as far as the sheer pleasure of the trip, we’d leave tomorrow. So much to see in this beautiful country of ours, so many nice people, so nice to be home. So until we meet again, as Shakespeare would have said, “Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow.”

Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com

Letters (Cont. from p. 4)

there is any intrenched special interest is that of Business. They always win, doesn’t he know that? In fine, I would say that we have to tax the citizens to have a great country.

Nafiss Griffiths, Outer Sunset

Mr. Adachi’s suspiciously funded Prop. B deserves a NO vote because it is a mean spirited attack on San Francisco City workers as if they were the cause of the City’s fiscal problems. In his “Prop. B Deserves Support” he never mentions the causal effects of the greedy and dishonest big operators from here to Wall Street.

How unfortunate that he compares the City’s employee medical insurance benefits to the “only 60% of SF businesses that offer health care benefits for employees” (or the 40% that don’t). San Francisco seeks a higher standard in many areas including medical coverage for its employees and their dependents. Why compare her to employers that don’t?

Adachi argues that SF is extravagant in her coverage of her worker’s dependents. According to the Kaiser Foundation the average employer covers 73% of family health premium costs; SF covers 74%. San Franciscans are proud that their city is above average in many ways. We should not regress! Vote NO on B.

Anthony C. Bazan, City Worker, 94131

Editors Note: We received more letters than we can print this time. Thank you for your letters! The remaining letters are accessible at www.westsideobserver.com

GENEROSITY OF NATURE

by Hilary Gordon

My annual backpacking trip to the Eastern Sierra revealed the customary beauties and rigors. We endured a violent hailstorm at 11,000 feet (later we found it had caused a mudslide that closed Hwy 395) and admired the last wildflowers in alpine meadows. Once again I rested my spirit in the flagrant generosity of scale when Mother Nature makes the garden. Turning the corner we saw not one shooting-star on a creek side, but 50, not one sagebrush on a hillside but 500, not one ancient wind-scarred pine by a high pass, but 5000.

Mother Nature’s garden has very strict rules as well as generosity. A meadow or hill-side may feature many individual plants, but only a handful of species. The fierce competition in the wild eliminates all but the best-suited plants for the specific exposures of the site. The repetition of a few elements results in the beautiful chaos and rhythm of natural areas.

Every year I bring the inspiration from this trip back to my own gardens, and try to create on a small scale a reminder of this generosity and strictness. To create a natural feeling in the garden, it’s important to resist the temptation to plant one specimen of each of your favorite plants. Instead, repeat the most successful and best suited plants. This way you can create the same feeling of ordered wildness we loved in the mountains.

Now is the best possible time to begin the process of refining next year’s garden design.

First, be like Mother Nature and remove plants that have struggled in their location or that had stubborn pest or disease problems. Even failure to thrive is a good reason to remove a plant; in our small urban spaces we just don’t have room for plants that aren’t beautifully thriving.

Now you have created some new open spaces in the garden, and open spaces cry out for some new plants. The best time for planting in our summer-dry climate is at the very start of the rainy season. The first rains usually arrive by early November, but the soil is still warm from September and October when we get our sunniest days. By clearing space in the garden and preparing the soil now, you can be ready to plant just before the first forecasts of rain.

Next, develop your plant list. Again following Mother Nature’s lead, choose plants that did fabulous jobs this year and gave you tremendous pleasure. Think about adding more of these, doubling the number, or tripling it. Create natural looking groupings of two or three or five and scatterthese groups throughout the garden. Odd numbers usually look best.

Also, think about the succession of bloom in your garden. Was there a time this year when the garden let down? A little research will help you choose a new plant for your garden that will peak its bloom or beauty at that time. You can add one this year and see how it does, and buy multiples next year, or just go for broke and plant lots of your new choice.

Either way, a little planning and preparation now will lead to a successful planting season next month, and an even more beautiful garden next year. Happy gardening!

SF Botanical Garden: Growing Urban Edibles workshop — Master Gardeners will Demonstrate

Saturday, October 16, 9am-1pm

In a continuation of the popular classes in growing edibles, the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties will teach another hands-on Saturday morning workshop at the San Francisco Botanical Garden (SFBG), aimed at beginning and intermediate gardeners.

This final workshop covers growing winter vegetables, renewing the soil, choosing fruit trees and berries, pruning and tool care.

The workshop will be held at the San Francisco Botanical Garden Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

Registration is \$35, or \$30 for members of the SF Botanical Garden. For more information or to register, visit groups.ucanr.org/sanmateo.



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A black and white portrait of Dr. Robert A. M. Rees, a man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie, smiling.

☒ *Yes!*

B



FPPC #1326739 Paid for by YES ON PROPOSITION B, supported by Public Defender Jeff Adachi, Harriet Heyman, Michael Moritz and Warren Hellman

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

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

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

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 Avenue 731.7000

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday Night Jazz Fri | 7–11 pm | Cliff House, Balcony Lounge – 1 Seal Rock .

TUE - AUTHOR JENNIFER ARNOLD

Jennifer Arnold | Oct 5 | 7 pm | Discussing *Through A Dog's Eyes*. After 20 years of dog training, Arnold shares her training method, which is based on teaching dogs to make choices through kindness and encouragement rather than fear and submission Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave., Info: 564-8080

WED - COMMUNITY POLICE ADV. BOARD

CPAB | Oct 6 | 6–7 pm | Community Police Advisory Board. The purpose of the CPAB is to provide advice to the Area Commanding Officer to decrease the incidents and fear of crime. Taraval Police Station Community Room 2345 24th Ave.

SUN - VIOLINIST AXEL STRAUSS

SF Academy Orchestra Season Opener | Oct 10 | 5 pm | Andrei Gorbatenko, Conductor Mozart Adagio and Fugue in C minor, Sir Edward Elgar Introduction & Allegro Astor Piazzolla, Four Seasons in Buenos Aires. Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore. Tickets at door or: www.sfacademyorchestra.org

SUN - CZECH NONET

Czech Nonet Chamber Ensemble | Oct 10 | 3 pm | First California performance in 35 years. Martini: Nonetto; Asia : Nonet; Krejci: Divertimento; Wagner: Siegfried Idyll McKenna Theatre, Creative Arts Building, SF State University, 1600 Holloway at 19th Ave., Free.

TUE - POETS NEWMAN AND BELZ

Denise Newman and Aaron Belz | Oct 12 | 7 pm | Reading from *The New Make*

Now At the Movies • By Don Lee Miller

THE AMERICAN

As soon as the bodies start stacking up in snowy Sweden, hit man Jack: George Clooney hides out from his pursuers in Italy. He designs a special lightweight rifle for a female client, Ingrid: Irina Bjorklund. Parts are specially ordered. Meticulously, Jack files the metal to perfection while listening to Madame Butterfly, then assembles the weapon. A loner, Jack has an attraction to young, nubile women who are paid for their services. His Italian companion is the sympathetic Clara: Violante Placido. Father Benedetto: Paolo Bonacelli harbors secrets of his own while befriendng Jack. Anton Corbijn directs the screenplay by Rowan Joffe, based on the original novel by Martin Booth. Female nudity, Violence, Scenes of intercourse, Profanity.

EASY A

High school senior Olive: Emma Stone spreads a lie about having lost her virginity, using it to her advantage, both socially and financially. Her mother, Rosemary: Patricia Clarkson and Dad, Dill: Stanley Tucci don't realize how resourceful Olive can be. Making noises inside a locked bedroom at a high school party, Olive pretends to have sex with Brandon: Dan Byrd. Her science teacher, Mr. Griffith: Thomas Haden Church is more understanding than Principal Gibbons: Malcolm McDowell or her counselor, Mrs. Griffith: Lisa Kudrow. The high school religious fanatic, Marianne: Amanda Bynes wants to get Olive expelled. Olive's real interest is handsome Woodchuck Todd: Penn Badgley. Bert V. Royal's script is directed by Will Gluck with humor and inclusion of Olive's cell phone and computer screens. Profanity, Sexual situations.

SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD

Set in Toronto, nerdy teen Scott: Michael

TWO NEW BABY FACES AT THE SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

One Surprise Birth and One Planned Brings New François' Langurs to Zoo Family

On September 7, 2010, animal keepers at the San Francisco Zoo were greeted by a wonderful and unexpected new addition—the birth of an infant François' langur. Then, on Thursday, September 23, 2010 another infant was born, this one was planned through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan. The two vibrant orange-headed infants were welcomed with open arms by the rest of the langur group and both mothers and newborns are doing incredibly well.

The Zoo's Francois' langur group consists of two males (Chuy and son Han) and four females (Conkhi, My Linh, Jingjing and Kim). My Linh is the mother of Kim and also birthed the recent surprise infant. She originally had a birth control implant, but keepers suspect that the family of langurs may have somehow removed the implant during regular grooming. The second infant was birthed by Conkhi, who is the mother of Han and Jingjing. Chuy is the sire for all the offspring amongst this group of François' langurs. All the females in the group will take turns caring for the infants.

This medium-sized black primate has unique facial characteristics and long, distinctive white sideburns. Infant langurs are known for their stark color contrast and have a vivid orange coat at birth, especially on their heads. As they get older their coloring will change to the adult black and white.

The François' langur is a rare species found in Southwestern China and Vietnam. The population of the species has declined dramatically in the wild and potentially faces extinction. Recent estimations are that there may be as few as 1,000 left in the wild.



Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave., Info: 564-8080

FRI - BERLIN & BEYOND FILM FESTIVAL

Oct 22–28 | The 15th annual Berlin & Beyond film festival at the historic Castro Theater Opening: Vincent Wants to Sea a comedy, Pope Joan, Animals United in 3-D, When We Leave, Rock Hudson: Dark and Handsome Stranger, and Autumn Gold. Info and tickets, berlinbeyond.com or Goethe-Institut 530 Bush St.

SUN - ORCHESTRA AND ENSEMBLE

SF State Orchestra conducted by Cyrus Ginwala/SF State Wind Ensemble conducted by Tristan Arnold | Oct 23 | 7:30 pm | Benjamin Britten's Variations and Fugue on a theme of Purcell Op. 34 and Charles Gounod's Petite Symphonie for winds Knuth Hall, Creative Arts Building, SF State University, 1600 Holloway at 19th

Ave., Admission: Advance: \$8 students, faculty, staff and seniors/\$12 general; Door: \$10 students, faculty, staff and seniors/\$15 general.

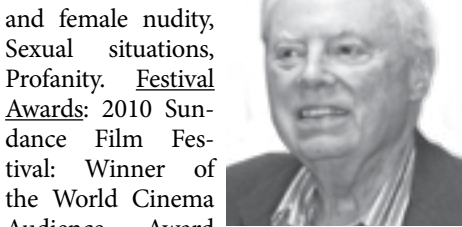
SAT - ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH

Author McCall Smith | Oct 23 | 7 pm | will read from, *The Charming Quirks of Others*. A discreet investigation reveals surprising issues in the most hidden precincts of the heart. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal Ave., Info: 564-8080

MON - CENTRAL COUNCIL

West of Twin Peaks Central Council | Oct 25 | 7:30 pm | A resource for neighborhood organizations. Learn and comment on issues. Fourth Mon each month Forest Hill Clubhouse at 381 Magellan Ave.

Got an event? The Westside Observer's priority is neighborhood, local events: editor@westsideobserver.com



Boston's criminal element, including the bank-robbing quartet of this story. The brains, Doug: Ben Affleck; the loose finger, Jim: Jeremy Renner; and two other hoods do the jobs. Then, there's the bank manager, Claire: Rebecca Hall and Jon Hamm, the FBI investigator. Jim, his parents and sister, Krista: Blake Lively, have raised Doug since he was five when his father, Stephen: Chris Cooper was sent to prison. Fergie: Pete Postlethwaite, runs a flower shop as a cover. This crime thriller, one of the year's best written dramas, is well worth seeing. The acting is also top-notch with the script co-written and directed by Affleck in great form. Violence, Sex situations, Profanity.

UNDERTOW

In this unusual ghost story set on the beautiful Peruvian coastline, a married fisherman struggles to reconcile his devotion to his male lover within his town's rigid traditions. Miguel: Cristian Mercado, a handsome, young and beloved fisherman, and his youthful wife, Mariela: Tatiana Astengo, are about to welcome their first born. But Miguel harbors his secret love for Santiago: Manolo Cardona, an American painter who is ostracized by the townspeople both because he denies God and is openly gay. When Santiago accidentally drowns in the Pacific Ocean's strong undertow, he cannot pass over peacefully to the other side. He returns after death to ask Miguel to find his body and bury it according to the town rituals. Miguel must choose between condemning Santiago to eternal torment or doing right by him and, in so doing, revealing their relationship to his wife—and the entire village. When Santiago's mother and sister come to take his body back home for burial, his nude paintings of Miguel are seen by all and there are no more secrets. Well written and directed by Javier Fuentes-León. Male

and female nudity, Sexual situations, Profanity. **Festival Awards:** 2010 Sundance Film Festival: Winner of the World Cinema Audience Award (Drama); 2010 Frameline Festival: Outstanding First Feature Award; Peru's Official Selection for the 2010 Oscars.

YOU AGAIN

Marni Olsen: Kristen Bell was the girl in her high school class who had braces on her teeth, glasses, bad hair and skin, and was bullied by the in-crowd led by cheerleader, Joanna: Odette Yustman. Now it's eight years later and Marni's a PR VP. In 48 hours, Joanna is marrying Marni's older brother, a lawyer, Will: Jimmy Wolk, unless Joanna is exposed for the bitch that she really is. Marni's parents, Gail: Jamie Lee Curtis and Mark: Victor Garber are hosting the event in Northern California. Joanna's Aunt Mona: Sigourney Weaver, now on the Forbes 100 Most Powerful Women with a chain of hotels, was Gail's best friend in high school, but secretly envied Gail, who won all the titles, even was Sandy in Grease. Pretentious Mona tosses around French phrases incessantly. Weaver's performance reminds one of her comedic Oscar-nominated work in 1988's Working Girl. Grandma Bunny: Betty White adds humor to dire situations. Kristen Chenoweth, the perky wedding planner with pizzazz, livens up the proceedings. When the fangs come out, beware! Cameos by Duane Johnson, Patrick Duffy, Cloris Leachman, Reginald VelJohnson, Hall & Oates, and Catherine Bach. The direction by Andy Fickman and writing by Moe Jelline could have had less clichés and more belly laughs. Profanity.



Clipper Street freeway extension Date 1947 June 20 S.F. Districts-Diamond Heights-1940's. Newscopy: "DEBUT FOR FREEWAY DUE—Pictured above is another link in San Francisco's program of freeway traffic arteries, the Clipper-St extension, scheduled for completion by July 15. Its course traced by arrows, it will be the main east-west arterial to the contemplated second Bay crossing and connect with all north-south arterials between Twin Peaks and the Bay. Meantime, it will provide motorists easier access from Portola-Dr, at point shown in right foreground, to the industrial areas. The new \$182,000 road joins Clipper-St near Douglass Playground and is part of the so-called Army-Guerrero-San Jose-Clipper-Sts Project."

At the Theater • By Dr Annette Lust and Flora Lynn Isaacson

WORD FOR WORD'S WIZARDRY



Dr. Annette Lust



Flora Lynn Isaacson

It is hard enough for good companies to stage quality plays with a readymade dialogue. And still fewer companies take on the challenge to successfully instill dramatic life into novels and short stories. If any theatre company can bring prose to life it is Word for Word that has a unique talent for spotting novels and stories that can be dramatized. And if the prose has little dialogue they have an acting technique that effectively dramatizes and physicalizes narration. A recent example is their production of Elizabeth Strout's novel *Olive Kitteridge*, presently being staged in their inaugural season of Z Space at Theater Artaud.

Word for Word's world premiere of Strout's *Olive Kitteridge*, consisting of two stories entitled "Tulips" and "River," is based on the life of small town characters in Maine. The dramatic conflict revolves mainly around forthright retired math teacher Olive Kitteridge, magnificently interpreted by Patricia Silver along with excellent performances by Paul Finocchiaro as her husband Henry, and Patrick Alparone as son Chris. The main thrust of "Tulips" (performed with a detailed staging that could gain in being trimmed down) focuses on the relationship of Olive to her devoted Henry to whom she shows dutiful affection and son Chris whose marriage to a flighty Suzanne separates them. When Henry's stroke occurs, Olive, estranged from her husband, faces loneliness accentuated by Chris' departure to California. Her life now consists of watching her tulips blowing in the wind, visiting an immobile Henry in a rest home, and taking six mile walks along the river.

Actress Patricia Silver and stage director Joel Mullennix's power to move spectators lies in the realistic and masterful portrayal of Olive's heartbreaking loss of her lifelong partner and her carefree son that drive her to depressed suicidal feelings. Olive's psychological state, sensitively and profoundly depicted without sentimentality or melodrama, incites spectators to empathize with the protagonist's hollow retired life and reflect on their own lives.

All the actors animate the narrated prose so well that one is not aware that their lines are directly repeated from the printed word until they say at the end of a line "he said or she said." Among other cast members who enliven the text are Jeri Lynn Cohen as nurse Mary Blackwell, Michelle Bellaver as Suzanne Kitteridge, Nancy Shelby as the affected eccentric neighbor Louise Larkin, and Warren David Keith as Jack Kennison, Olive's gentle male widower companion.

Director Joel Mullennix and scene designer David

Szlasa create an intimate and less hollowed stage space than the preexisting one by seating audience members on both sides of the stage and playing parts of the action among these spectators. Costumes (especially that of Olive in the same old coat sweater) by Laura Hazlett, lights by Jim Cave and sound by Tucki Bailey all are well suited to the characters and action.

This unique company, now with a permanent address at Z Space and that has staged classic and contemporary fiction since 1993, has once again weathered the challenge to animate the written word and continue its wizardry in admirably bringing literature to the stage.

Olive Kitteridge extended to Oct. 10th. Info: 800-838-3006 or visit www.Zspace.org. Dr. Annette Lust

ZERO TO 90 IN 90 MINUTES

Zero to 90 in 90 Minutes is a smorgasbord of Short Plays and Monologues written by four smart Bay Area women—Linda Ayres-Frederick, Joya Cory, Ruth Kirschner and Naomi Newman. These plays most of which won awards at the 2009 Fringe of Marin just won the Best of Fringe Best Plays Award at the 2010 SF Fringe Festival.

My particular favorites were the three plays which were previously performed last fall at the 2009 Fringe of Marin Festival. First Place would go Gussie and Sam, written and directed by Naomi Newman. This prize-winning play is a serio-comic look at two senior citizens facing the challenge of living in a nursing home. Performed expertly by Linda Ayres-Frederick and Paul Gerrior, the audience was roaring with laughter with tears. This play really has depth. Wabi Sabi by Ruth Kirschner and beautifully directed by Linda Ayres-Frederick is a hilarious comedy about four neurotic strangers whose lives unwillingly intersect at a bus stop. Delightful performances are given by the entire cast—Juliet Tanner, Heidi Wolff, Linda Ayres-Frederick and Bruno Kanter. This play was the winner of the Marin Fringe Festival Best Play Award in 2009 (directed by Penny Wallace). Linda Ayres-Frederick is amazing! She also wrote and performed Googling for Gerson, a poignant, award-winning monologue about a Hispanic grandmother who helps purchase a prosthesis for her grandson who has just returned from the war.

Other plays on the program include another play written and directed by Linda Ayres-Frederick called Waiting in the Victory Garden. In a time of war, a young bride wonders if her new husband will survive his deployment. Featured players include Juliet Tanner, Heidi Wolff and Paul Gerrior. This play was previously performed at the 2007 Bay Area One Act Festival at the Eureka Theatre. Ruth Kirschner wrote a wonderful monologue called 15 Notes directed by Linda Ayres-Frederick and featured Heidi Wolff who gave a sadly hilarious performance as Arley Levine Wright who is trying to write a simple thank you note to the doctor who has been caring for her dying father.

Last but not least was The Most Beautiful Showgirl in the World by Janet Johnston and Joya Cory,

directed by Maureen Studer. Joya gives a stunning performance as Elayne, an aging showgirl. Then immediately before our eyes, Joya transforms herself into Irma in Irma at the Movies, which she also wrote, in which Irma fights a panic attack at the movies.

I would also like to give credit to Jan Carty Marsh for her outstanding work in lighting and sound effects.

Zero to 90 in 90 Minutes will be performed at the "Best of Fringe" on Oct. 1 and 2 at the Exit Theatre on 156 Eddy Street, on Oct. 1 and 2. For info call 415-931-1094 or visit www.sffringe.org. Flora Lynn Isaacson

MAMET'S POLITICAL PARODY

Just in time for the mid-term elections, comes "November." This 2008 farce by David Mamet concerns a U.S. President facing a bleak re-election campaign who must look to the turkey lobby to boost his sagging polls. Meanwhile, his speech writer has demands of her own to legalize gay marriage.

Ross Valley Players' production stars Buzz Halsing as President Charles Smith who is staring at extremely low poll ratings. In order to fund his presidential campaign, he seizes an opportunity to extort \$200,000,000 from the Turkey Producers of America by threatening to give a speech making a case for eating pork or fish on Thanksgiving instead. The play begins with Stephen Dietz as the President's Chief of Staff, Archer Brown, trying to knock some political sense into his head. The President's best hope for money rests with a turkey lobbying group, which is willing to pay substantial sums for the traditional presidential pardon of a Thanksgiving turkey. But they have unacceptable conditions which also cause problems for his lesbian speech writer Clarice Bernstein (LeAnne Rumbel), who wants the President to marry her and her partner before he leaves the Oval Office to make it legal.

The play then wraps up with a quick farcical moment including a Native-American lobbyist (Romulo Torres) who tries unusual methods to win some land for a casino, and gay marriage advocates score a win at the expense of several dead turkeys.

James Dunn, who directed the superb production of Glengarry Glenn Ross last year, also by Mamet, directs November with an ear for the musicality of the language. His smart staging elicits crisp performances from his entire cast.

November continues at Ross Valley Players through October 17. For tickets, call 415-456-9555 or go online at www.rossvalleyplayers.com. *Coming up next at Ross Valley Players will be Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice directed by Phoebe Moyer from Nov. 12-Dec.12, 2010. Flora Lynn Isaacson*

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Parking lot across from the club

Feedback: oleson@westsideobserver.com



PAD is a serious disease affecting 8 million Americans and nearly 1 in 3 people age 70 and over. When fatty deposits build up in the arteries it can lead to stroke, heart attack, amputations, and even death. The **UCSF Heart and Vascular Center** is home to some of the world's top vascular specialists who provide the most advanced diagnosis and treatment available for PAD.

If you are over age 50 and have any of the following, you may be at risk:

- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Smoke or previously smoked
- ▶ Leg pain when walking or foot pain at night
- ▶ Poor healing of minor wounds
- ▶ High blood pressure or abnormal cholesterol
- ▶ Heart disease, prior heart attack or stroke

Talk to your doctor to see a UCSF vascular specialist.

Three convenient locations:

- ▶ **UCSF Medical Center at Parnassus**
- ▶ **Greenbrae** (Marin County)
- ▶ **Mission Bay** (Opening in November)

**Visit www.vascular.surgery.ucsf.edu
or call (415) 353-2357**

UCSF Medical Center
Heart & Vascular Center

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

Answer

1. Lasts -> Last
2. First -> First
3. Lengthy -> Length
4. Shorts -> Short
5. Grown -> Grow
6. Tally -> Tall
7. Cove -> Cove
8. Hate -> Hat

Sudoku-fun!

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

Answer: The answer appears aside.

BRAIN FÜD

Example: Begin -> Heavenly body
Answer: The words are Start and Sun

1. Endures -> At the end
2. At the beginning -> Evergreens
3. Long in duration -> Longest dimension
4. Boxers -> Brief in duration
5. Fully developed -> Become larger
6. Count -> High in stature
7. Long for; desire -> Small inlet
8. Despire -> Head covering

Answers: on the right



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- There is recognition that neighborhoods that are safe, vibrant, and clean are the building blocks of a great city;
- The public health delivery system is strengthened with a sharper focus on specific needs, such as HIV, children's health, mental health, and substance abuse treatment;
- The budget process is reformed and city leaders focus on long-term structural solutions;
- The city's infrastructure receives the attention it deserves, with innovative solutions being found to reduce the fiscal impact of addressing decades of neglect;
- The public education system is strengthened by reforming the school assignment system so that diversity is maintained while not forcing parents to transport their kids across town;
- Quality-of-life misdemeanors are diverted from the criminal justice system into alternative settings that hold people accountable for their behavior while requiring them to receive services to address underlying problems; and
- More housing opportunities in all forms, including market-rate housing, affordable housing, and rental housing are made available to city residents.

It takes dedication.



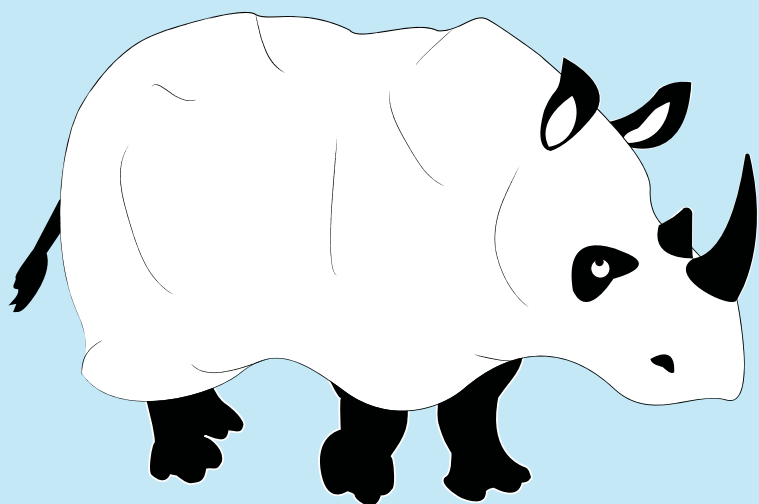
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at the



For more info, visit www.sfzoo.org

VOTE NO ON G

It's not real Muni reform



Prop G says it's about fixing Muni. But the only thing it does is unfairly go after drivers – while doing nothing about bad management and real problems of Muni.

- ✗ Management is the problem with Muni.** The top manager at Muni made \$354,000 last year – the highest paid official in San Francisco – yet Muni management gets worse each year.
- ✗ Prop G doesn't improve Muni management.** Prop G does nothing to increase management accountability or efficiency. It gives the bureaucrats a free ride, while going after the drivers as if they are the problem.
- ✗ Muni drivers are part of the solution.** Muni drivers are on the front lines, keeping passengers safe, driving our transit routes, helping disabled passengers. They work hard under tough, sometimes unsafe conditions. They're part of the solution, not the problem.
- ✗ Demand comprehensive, fair reform.** Prop G singles out Muni drivers with the most unfair collective bargaining standards of any city union. That's not fair – and it won't fix Muni.

Get the facts. **Vote NO on G.**

Transit Workers Union, Local 250-A, AFL-CIO Special Fund FPPC#744486

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