Berkeley Students Celebrate as President Obama Takes Office

By Riya Bhattacharjee

For the 3,500 Berkeley High School students who watched the presidential inauguration unfold Tuesday morning, the steps of the Community Theater could have very well been those of the U.S. Capitol—their solemn expressions and sporadic bursts of laughter capturing one of the greatest moments in the nation’s history.

A sea of Black, Latino, white and Asian students packed the theater’s auditorium by 8:45 a.m., along with teachers, parents and high school staff, to watch Barack Obama be sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, standing up when he took the oath of office.

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There were few bright spots in the overview of the Berkeley Unified School District’s high school student data for 2009 at the Berkeley Board of Education meeting last week, especially not the challenges posed in analyzing the test results.

The data took into account student performance at Berkeley High School, Berkeley Technology Academy (B-Tech) and the Independent Study Program.

An hour-long presentation to the school board by the district’s director of evaluation and assessment Rebecca Cheung showed that student participation in the California Standardized Tests (CST) continues to be dismal district-wide, something some district officials blamed on the community’s reluctance to see it as a valid measure for student performance.

The analysis showed that the scores of African-American students were the most underperforming in the data, which included the CST, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), college entrance tests, GPAs, attendance and suspensions.

White students performed higher than all other groups in these areas, followed by multi-ethnic and Latino students. African-Americans were also the lowest performing group (55 percent) at CPA, and white students (41 percent) did much better than their peers.

In the last six years, the total high school population in Berkeley has increased by 18 percent—from 2,949 to 3,482 students.

B-Tech reported a large percentage of African-Americans (65 percent), as opposed to Independent Study (10 percent) and Berkeley High (28 percent).

The Independent Study program had the largest percentage of multicultural (33 percent) and white (41 percent) students.

Berkeley High’s enrollment demographics for 2009 showed changes in population since 2003, with slight decreases in African-American, white and English-learner students and a slight increase in Latino students.

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**The Planet in the Community**

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**GWEN IFILL - The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama**
Hosted by Neil Henry
January 28, Wednesday, 7:30 PM
First Congregational Church of Oakland
2501 Harrison Street, Oakland
Tickets: $12 advance, $15 door, www.kfpa.org/events and at supporting bookstores

**AARON GLANTZ & NORMAN SOLOMON**
"The War Comes Home"
Washington's Battle Against America's Veterans
January 29, Saturday, 3:00 PM
First Congregational Church of Oakland
2501 Harrison Street, Oakland
Tickets: $12 advance, $15 door, www.kfpa.org/events or at supporting bookstores

**HEARTS GATHERING:**
Poetry, Laureates & Music for Valentine’s Day
Saturday, February 14, 8:00 pm
King Middle School Auditorium
1781 Rose Street (at Grant) Berkeley
Tickets: $15 on line: www.kfpa.org/events, and at supporting bookstores: $20 door or on line: www.kfpa.org/events

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**Families March in Honor Of Martin Luther King Jr.**

**By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE**

A small but dedicated crowd came to Jefferson Elementary School in North Berkeley early Monday morning to make the short trek over to King Middle School for Berkeley’s first-ever march to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday—at least in the Berkeley school district.

More than 250 students and their parents gathered in King’s auditorium to honor the greatest civil rights activists, who was killed 41 years ago in Memphis, Tenn., and spoke about their dreams and aspirations for their family and their country, something Dr. King had also talked about in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. King would have been 80 years old this year.

The confluence of the federal holiday celebrating Dr. King’s birthday with the eve of the inauguration of a black man as the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama, made the occasion even more special for those who attended.

Middle schoolers carried posters of Dr. King, Obama’s standing side by side while parents held “I Have a Dream” and “Yes We Can!” placards on both hands.

In her speech, every anecdote either started or ended with the new president’s name, and talked about how he had brought hope to the lives of millions.

“Dr. King to Barack Obama,” said Ann Williams, vice-president of the King PTA, one of the organizers of the march. “Today we are rejoicing in hope, the possibilities and the new.”

Despite the lack of a parade or any public celebration on MLK Jr. Day in Berkeley, Williams said that she and her California College Prep Academy in Berkeley, decided to take matters in their own hands.

“We were on the bus to Sacramento six years ago to protest the budget cuts and we were wondering why we didn’t have any kind of a march in Berkeley,” she said. “Every year a group of us would say ‘OK who’s going to do it?’ but nothing ever hap-

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Continued on Page Twenty-Seven

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(2) Neighborhood delivery subscriptions: One neighbor signs up 3 or more others, they pay us as above, and a bundle of papers is delivered weekly to a convenient home location for neighbors to pick up.

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‘Smart Growth’ Proponents Tighten Grip on Commission

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Rosa Ferrazares is off the planning commission and, for the moment, no one is willing to say why—at least on the record.

“I am not going to comment,” said City Councilmember Darrell Moore, who appointed her to the commission Sept. 26, 2006. “I am treating it as a personnel matter.”

Moore said he has been and will be replacing several commissioners.

Pressed for details, Moore said, “I don’t expect to get anything positive from the [Daily] Planet on this thing.”

Ferrazares was perhaps the most independent member and the least predictable vote on a strongly divided panel. She asked incisive questions and often spotted implications in proposals that slipped by most of her colleagues. Uniquely on the commission, she would often vote with the majority after deeply questioning the proposals she would ultimately vote for.

But her downfall, according to several sources, was her respect for Gene Wengraf, appointed by Mayor Tom Bates, initially a concession under the state’s density bonus law to not provide any inclusionary units.

Wengraf had held prior to her election to the City Council. Wengraf was not directly involved in the development industry, though she had voted with the pro-intensified-development majority on key votes.

Also joining the board at the same session Jan. 14 session was David Stoloff, the appointee of Mayor Tom Bates, initially appointed six years earlier. Stoloff is a retired planner and developer.

UC Workers Take Over Regent’s Office to Demand Pay Raise

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

More than 60 UC service workers belonging to AFSCME Local 3299 took their fight for higher wages and contract renewal to the office of the chair of the UC Board of Regents, Richard Blum, in downtown San Francisco last week, leading to the arrest of at least 19 workers.

The group, angry about the lack of progress by UC executives to end poverty wages for 8,500 UC service workers after what they said was more than a year and half of negotiations, occupied Blum Capital—a San Francisco-based investment management firm headed by Blum—at 909 Montgomery Street around 9 a.m. on Jan. 16, and announced their intention not to leave until he and UC President Mark Yudof talked to the workers about raising their wages.

After parking themselves inside the office for more than 90 minutes, a small group of workers refused to leave without meeting Blum—who was not present at that point—and were arrested by the San Francisco Police Department and taken to the nearby Central Police Station. Calls to Blum at his office for comment were not returned.

Kathryn Lybarger, a gardener at UC Berkeley who took part in the demonstration, was released from police custody around 11 a.m.

“Cooks, custodians, gardeners—we have all been fighting for wages that will put us out of poverty,” she said, cheering her co-workers as they walked out from the police station after being freed. “As the economy is getting worse, it is affecting us even harder. Ninety-six percent of the service workers are eligible for some kind of health care, even if we work full-time. The university is paying poverty wages, even as they have recently made bonuses to chief executives over the past year. There’s no reason they can’t settle a contract today, and Blum has the power to make it happen.”

Lybarger, who has worked at UC Berkeley for seven years, said that although the mediator recommended by UC had made a recommendation to the university that they settle their contract, nothing had moved forward yet.

She said that the average custodian at UC Berkeley was taking home $24,000, forcing them to work two or three jobs to support their families and take care of rising grocery bills and the increasing risk of home foreclosures.

Rosa Martinez, a food service worker from UC San Diego who flew to Oakland last night with Angela Velquez, a custodian at the same university, said their low salaries were becoming a challenge for them and their families.

“The money we get is not enough to cover everything,” she said, explaining that she had to live with her son to cover her expenses. “That’s the only way I can go on.”

Velquez said that in order to provide for her two children, she had taken up another job at the Marriott Hotel in San Diego, sacrificing her weekends and holidays.

“We get a raise last year, but it’s not enough,” she said. “It continues to be a struggle.”

Zoning Meetings Turn Monthly, Kashani Condos Back on Agenda

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

Berkeley’s Zoning Adjustments Board—which will now meet only one Thursday of the month instead of two because of the scarcity of new projects in the city’s Planning and Development Department—is scheduled to vote Thursday on whether to approve real-estate developer Ali Kashani’s five-story mixed-use project, a proposal to build 98 condos, 7,770 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and 114 parking spaces on a 43,210 square-foot lot.

At a Dec. 11 meeting last year, the board held a public hearing on the project and, after hearing Berkeley resident Steve Kashani’s five-story mixed-use project, a proposal to build 98 condos, 7,770 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and 114 parking spaces on a 43,210 square-foot lot.

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Police Blotter

By RIO BAUCE

Robbery

A Berkeley resident, who lives on the 2000 block of Prince Street, called on Jan. 17 at 9:30 p.m. to report that someone had broken into the basement using a door pry and taken a bicycle and a power drill. No suspects have been identified.

Strong-arm

An 18-year-old man called the Berkeley Police on Jan. 17 at 9 p.m. to report that three black men around his age had just attempted to rob him at the corner of Bancroft Way and Bonar Street. They grabbed the man’s bag, tried to steal it. When the man would not give it up, they kicked him and pushed him. They took off running westbound on Bancroft Way. The suspects remain at large.

Robbery with fake gun

A 19-year-old man called on Jan. 19 at 1:54 a.m. to report that he had been robbed with a simulated gun on the 2000 block of Haste Street. The three juveniles grabbed him, held him, and asked him what he had on him while one produced a simulated gun. The man took off running and accidentally dropped his i-pod. The three apparently took it, since, when he came back later to find it, it was gone. The suspects remain on the loose.

Corner fight

A 19-year-old Richmond woman called on Jan. 19 at 12:05 p.m. to report that she had been battered by three other women on the corner of San Pablo and Ashley Avenue. The suspects remain at large.

Basically, four prostitutes were having a fight over a particular corner,” said Berkeley Police Public Information Officer Andrew Frankel.

Battery

A Berkeley restaurant-goer called on Jan. 19 at 6:14 p.m. to report that he saw two men on the 2300 block of Telegraph Avenue slap and pat the buttocks of two women. Based on their reaction, the caller thought that the women did not know the men. No further suspect or victim information is available.

Fire Department Log

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Bug Bomb Blast

Responding to a report of an explosion, Berkeley firefighters rushed to a business in the 2800 block of Sacramen- to Street Friday evening to find glass on the sidewalks from windows shattered by the blast.

But the cause of the 10:34 p.m. blast wasn’t an explosive device. “It was insect foggers,” said Deputy Fire Chief Gil Dong, or “bug bombs” as they are commonly known.

Once the smoke had cleared away, firefighters found that in addition to shattering the windows, the blast had warped an interior wall and demolished to probable cause of the pyrotechnics, a refrigerator.

“We secured the oven before they set off foggers,” said the deputy chief. “They clearly state that all gas sources should be turned off,” including pilot lights and the triggers that fire up the condensers in refrigerators.

“I don’t know if it wiped out all the bugs they were after,” he said.

Bravest call finest

Berkeley firefighters found themselves making their own call for help Sunday morning when a brazen burglar targeted cars inside the fenced parking lot of Station 2.

An arriving firefighter was alerted to the crime when he spotted a briefcase open on the pavement inside the lot. Closer investigation revealed that a pick-up’s camper shell had been damaged by a thief, who had broken both a window and a lock to get at the contents inside.

“Nothing major was taken,” said the deputy chief, “but we reminded our deputies to always clear all the debris out of your own vehicle before you start it up.”

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Berkeley Chess Club meets every Thursday, 7 to 9 p.m. at Berkeley Community Center, 2153 Durant St. Cost is $5, plus $5 food and beverage. Admission by donation. Information can be found at BerkeleyChessClub.com.

Citywide Pools Master Plan Community Meeting at a time to be determined at Berkeley Community Center, 2170 Addison St.

Walking Tour of Old Oakland “New Era/New Politics” highlights leaders who have made their mark on Oakland. Meet at 10 a.m. at the African American Museum and Library at 659 14th St. Free - donations accepted. Call 510.626.6552.

Luncheon Meeting of the People’s 40th Anniversary at noon at the Tilden Nature Lodge. Luncheon is $6.50, including coffee. Call 510.549.6757.

Kensington Book Club meets to discuss “A Lesson Before Dying” by Ernest J. Gaines at 7 p.m. at Kensington Library, 6403 San Pablo Ave.

“Beyond the Fields: Cesar Chaves and the Struggle for Justice in the 21st Century” with Alice Sanders, Chair of Peace & Con- ciliation at Perkins and Bellevue. Meet at 3 p.m. at the colon- nade at the NE end of the lake. Walk around the lake every Sun. from 1 to 3 p.m. at Berkeley. Call 510.524.3043.

“Emerging Expressions of Oral Torah” with Rabbi Bridget at 6:15 p.m. at Jewish Community Center, 2805 Vine St. Call 510.549.6750.

Emerging Expressions of Oral Torah with Jeanie Low, 2956 San Pablo Ave., 2nd Flr. Call 510.549.6750.

Baby & Toddler Storytime at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. at Kensington United Church of Christ, 2130 Fourth St.

Music in Review: “Who is a Jew and Why?” with Rabbi Bridget at 6:15 p.m. at Jewish Community Center, 2805 Vine St. Call 510.549.6750.

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Free Prostate Cancer Screening from 8 a.m. to noon at Alta Bates Medical Center, 3030 Summit St. For appointment call 869.8833.

Tilden Mini-Rangers Hiking conservation and nature-based activities for ages 6–12. Dress to ramble and get dirty. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Tilden Nature Center, Tilden Park. Cost is $6–$8, registration required. 1-888-BPARKS.

Golden Gate Birding Walk at Lake Merritt and Lafayette Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the large spherical cage near Nature Center to learn more. 549.2839.

Learn How to Reduce Your Footprint at the Hillside Club, 2262 Cedar Ave. Call 510.549.6750.

“Planet Earth” David Atten- brough’s documentary, epithet of “Earth Day” and “Seasonal Forests” at 7:30 p.m. at the Alameda Library, 941 The Alameda. 548.3991.

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From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil at the Berkeley Bart STATION, corner of Shattuck and Center. Sing for Peace at 6:30 p.m. for vigil organizers. Park at 981-4333.

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with al Qaeda operating spreading into North Africa, which they could use as a springboard to launch attacks on Europe or the Persian Peninsula. He said there was a “bleed out” from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dispatches From The Edge
By Conn Hallinan

W

Commmrnunity Calendar

WHO’S ON FIRST Award to U.S. intelligence for its analysis of al Qaeda, according to a report by the Congressional Research S

DER 30

City Council meetings Tues., Jan. 27, 3 p.m., at City Chambers. 981-6900. www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/citycouncil

Energy Commission meetings Wed., Jan. 28, at 6:30 p.m., at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1401 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Planning Commission meetings Wed., Jan. 28, at 7 p.m., at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1401 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Mental Health Commission meetings Thurs., Jan. 29, at 5 p.m. at 2600 McKry Lane, West Berkeley. For info, call 981-1412.

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City Manager Salary

Continued from Page One

Adjustment for the City Manager,” is “to bring [Kamlarz] salary to the median of City Managers in comparable cities in the Bay Area.”

In fact, the mayor is seeking far more than an 8 percent monthly raise for the C.M. He’s asking the council to okay a whole new and higher range of salary steps—aka a recalculation. The most he can be getting is what Kamlarz is pulling the maximum “actual monthly salary” for a Berkeley city manager. Supposedly, the only way he can get more is if the city manager slot is reclassified.

But Kamlarz may already be getting more than $220,000 a year from the city. Exhibit A, attached to Item 4b.11, indicates that his “adjusted annual maximum”—his “actual monthly salary” plus some benefits—currently comes to $241,156. So the city manager’s current $17,905 “actual monthly salary” isn’t really actual.

In any case, Kamlarz may be getting more yet. The rule of thumb is that city of Berkeley employees’ benefits equal at least 50 percent of their salaries, so the C.M.’s current total compensation may well be over $300,000 a year. His full benefit package isn’t laid out in the mayor’s report.

Bates’ report also fails to mention the annual 2 to 2.5 percent cost of living increases that are charted on another (unnamed) attachment. Kamlarz would receive the first of these so-called COLAs on June 28, a mere four months after his initial raise. By Dec. 25, 2011, his “adjusted annual maximum” salary would rise to $282,920 (not counting additional benefits).

Last May, Daily Planet reporter Judith Scherr wrote that Kamlarz was earning “about $208,000 ... plus about $100,000 in benefits” and was “asking for a wage hike from a City Council subcommittee reclassifying him.” (The mayor’s report mentions no such quest or council subcommittee with evaluating it.) The C.M. is now earning at least $232,020 a year, so in the past eight months, his compensation has gone up at least 11.5 percent.

The 11.5 percent increase apparently comes from the 3.5 percent “cost of living adjustments and benefit improvements” plus a “Longevity Pay Differential” (percent unspecified) that the council, acting on the C.M.’s recommendations at its Oct. 7 meeting, gave to Kamlarz and other “Confidential and Executive Management employees who belong to “Representation Unit Z-1.” The Longevity Pay Differential is available to employees who have more than 25 years of benefited service.

The council approved these raises on consent, which is to say, without discussion. If on Jan. 27 the council approves Bates’ current request (which is also designated for a “consent” approval), then since last May Berkeley’s city manager will have received a salary increase of 19.5 percent.

The mayor also cites precedent: “In setting employees’ salaries, it has been the council’s policy to compensate employees at the median of comparable jurisdictions.” This is true. The same rationale was used to justify raises the council granted most City of Berkeley employees in raising their pay. Why, given the dire state of the economy, is the mayor proposing a raise for anyone in City Hall, least of all an employee who is already near the top quarter of a million dollars a year (and possibly more)? Is Berkeley in a municipal arms race, with employee pay peaking upward? What happened to notions of fiscal austerity, belt-tightening, living within our means?

Before answering these questions, I’d like to take a closer look at the data that the mayor’s staff in this case is to assemble to support his proposed “salary adjustment for the City Manager,” and specifically at Exhibit A, a chart entitled “City Manager—Compensation Survey/October 2008.” (We can understand why the mayor waited until after the November election to go public with his request to increase the C.M.’s pay.) The survey lists 16 cities, each city’s budget, its number of full-time employees (FTEs), and the actual monthly salary, adjusted monthly salary, and adjusted annual maximum salary currently received by each jurisdiction city manager.

I have reconfigured the chart, listing the cities in ascending order of their city managers’ adjusted annual maximum salaries. Drawing on the latest figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, I have also added each city’s population and median household income.

Far from supporting the mayor’s proposal, the survey’s findings raise big questions. Why on earth, for example, is San Jose on the list? With a population of 929,936, an annual budget of $3.7 billion and 6,992 full-time employees, how can San Jose possibly be compared to Berkeley? Ditto for bankrupt Vallejo, whose city manager gets $220,436 a year (second highest among the 16 cities surveyed). At $324,903, San Jose’s city manager is the top earner here. Were San Jose and Vallejo included to jack up the median salaries?

Indeed, what were the criteria of “comparability,” to use the mayor’s term, that determined which cities were surveyed? And why did the city managers of cities with the median household income is $90,377, be compared to Berkeley, where the corresponding figure is $44,485? Bates cites the number of employees that Kamlarz has to manage as a rationale for increasing his pay. Berkeley taxpayers might wonder: Why does our city, with a population of 101,555, have 1,660 city employees, while Daly City, pop. 101,005, has 255, Hayward, pop. 140,607, has 900; and Fremont, pop. 140,606, has 912? Does Berkeley’s consciously large city work force—by far the third largest on the list (San Jose and Oakland are respectively #1 and #2) and much bigger than workforces of cities with comparable populations, signify better management or worse?

In short, the numbers suggest that cities vary so greatly that there is no firm ground on which to base the city manager’s compensation, except what the market, i.e., taxpayers, will bear.

To understand the push to raise Kamlarz’ pay, we have to look elsewhere. The Berkeley Daily Planet is a newspaper. Berkeley’s city manager system is an institution as it tries to corrupt political machines. From now on, Americans were told, their cities would be run like big businesses, not personal fiefdoms based on patronage and personal allegiances. Berkeley’s Longevity Pay Differential was instituted as an alternative to corrupt political patronage. So who demands big bucks.

Here’s another explanation. In school we learned that in the early 20th century, the city manager system was instituted as an attempt to corrupt political machines. From now on, Americans were told, their cities would be run like big businesses, not personal fiefdoms based on patronage and personal allegiances. Berkeley’s Longevity Pay Differential was instituted as an alternative to corrupt political patronage. So who demands big bucks. City managers and their staffs were disinterested civil servants, who above all prized competence and efficiency.

The Berkeley situation belies this rosyate image. In recent years City Manager Kamlarz has repeatedly identified the control of labor costs as a, if not the crucial factor in ensuring the city’s fiscal stability. Yet he has just as regularly sought and received council approval for substantial raises for city employees. Now, at a time of extreme financial instability, he has apparently embarked on a campaign to raise his own compensation by tens of thousands of dollars. (According to City of Berkeley Human Resources Director David Hodgkins, the Longevity Pay Differential was first instituted for Unit Z-employees in June 2008.)

Though character is always a factor, the root of the problem isn’t Kamlarz; it’s the city manager system itself. The C.M. is in an inherently contradictory position; he’s at once the top administrator and the top employee. He needs to seek the good of the city as a whole, but he also needs to command the loyalty of his subordinates; one of the surest ways of doing so is to keep his subordinates in line with his earnings, even when such assistance conflicts with his own budgetary recommendations (which it regularly does). The more he makes, the more he can justifiably claim for himself.

In principle, the city manager follows the council’s direction. But when it comes to budget and finance, practically speaking, he is the council’s by the nose. Mind you, they are willingly led.

I predict that on Jan. 27, the council will unanimously approve an 8 percent raise for Kamlarz—on consent.
Oakland's Test in the Aftermath of Oscar Grant's Death

I t is somewhat ironic, isn't it, that it is the City of Oakland that is mostly being tested in these days following the shooting death of Oscar Grant, more so than the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, the BART Police Department, or the Alameda County Office of the District Attorney. Oakland, after all, had nothing to do with Mr. Grant's death, nor any responsibility for the administration of justice in the case, and is only in the center of the flashpoint for crowds angered by the grant, and so avoided confrontation on it. The case, and is only in the center of the administration of justice in it. I wish I had the time to list all of the extraordinary acts I've observed in the last few days surrounding the Grant killing. One of them came during the first BART Board meeting following Mr. Grant’s death, when a group of high school students marched to the BART headquarters and were turned away at the door. A group of them, either led or inspired by a couple of aging members of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) who came out armed with a bullhorn, began chanting something to the effect that “the whole damn system is guilty.” Jumoke Hinton Hodge—newly elected to the Oakland School Board and no stranger to struggle and advocacy herself—came up and began talking to some of the students, telling them that they needed to be more specific than just “the system,” urging them to consider what they were doing, giving some suggestions on who and what they might target. There followed an extraordinary exchange of ideas in moments that you sometimes see in the midst of struggle in which Hinton Hodge and the students talked strategy and tactics—sometimes heatedly, always passionately and seriously—outside the Kaiser Building. This apparently ticked off the RCP guys, who found themselves at the back of the line they fancied themselves leading, and so they began shouting—over the bullhorn—that Ms. Hinton Hodge was misleading the students, and what was needed—right then—and was a real dialogue. A real dialogue was actually taking place. RCP has been one of the groups trying to mythologize the downtown vandalism, turning it into the beginning act in rebellion/Revolution while criticizing city officials and leaders of CAPE for trying to keep the marches and rallies peaceful. RCP is not by themselves in this. But I’ve run out of space, once more for this column, and will return to a subject of another column, at another time.

For the Daily Planet January 22-28, 2009 Page 9

Oakland's Test in the Aftermath of Oscar Grant's Death

BART police officer on New Years Day on the platform of the Fruitvale BART station, and the headquarters of both BART and the District Attorney's office are both located in the City. Because of this, demonstrations protesting Mr. Grant's death—accusing BART of vandalism, violence, and arrests, have all been centered in Oakland. But there is nothing wrong with this type of periodic shaking and testing in the life of a city. In fact, it's a good thing. It's one of the ways that we can measure ourselves, see who we actually are—under pressure—instead of what we imagine ourselves or would like ourselves to be, one of the ways we can see what our leaders, organizations, and citizens actually stand for. It can be a revealing time, if one pays close attention. There have been some extraordinary moments to pay attention to.

On the Wednesday night of the second downtown Grant protest, in that tense time along Broadway between the end of the rally at Oakland City Hall and the first incidents of vandalism at 12th Street, I came across Oscar Grant Community member Nancy Brooks standing in the middle of the street and grumbling—as only Ms. Brooks can grumble—that she was tired, she was hungry, she was disappointed everybody to go home now that the march and rally were over—nor so because she could, herself. Small crowds had gathered on all four corners of 14th and Broadway, and security from the protest march and rally were trying to keep them from a confrontation with Oakland Police. Ms. Brooks—one of the fiercest critics of the BART police—booted and helmeted—

I saw Ms. Brooks standing and talking with the man for another fifteen minutes or so, the street ahead of her was closed to traffic, and she was among the storefront shops at CityCenter.

Given the certainty that the riot police were ready to arrest the man and take him to the ground, if necessary, and given the man's obvious determination to keep the peace, that some sort of arrest, this was an explosive confrontation, certainly the most potentially dangerous one I witnessed that night. A violent arrest in the middle of Broadway—and it is hard to see how this would not have turned violent—in full view of television cameras and crowds of people, would have probably transformed the march into a confrontation with the police. The extraordinary acts I've observed in the last few days surrounding the Grant killing.

A large sense, props (much props? another column, at another time. But I've run out of space, once more for this column, and will return to a subject of another column, at another time.

FOR VETS & FRIENDS OF VETS & RELATIVE OF VETS & FOLKS WHO CARE: DO SOMETHING!

THE WAR COMES HOME: WASHINGTON'S BATTLE AGAINST AMERICA'S VETERANS

Aaron Glantz, author of How America Lost Iraq and co-author of Winter Soldier will discuss with Norman Solomon, author and media critic, this crucial issue. Sponsored by many veterans groups and peace organizations. SATURDAY, JAN. 31, 8pm First Cong. Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. tickets $12 on-line and at independent bookstores $15 door www.kpf.org/events 848-6767X611

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

African-American man walking up and muscular young (late 20s to mid-30s) African-American man walking up and down the street, working himself up towards his own personal confrontation with the police. He had attacked the door to the Wells Fargo building several days earlier, the bank manager had seen and seemed angered and puzzled and frustrated that he could do no damage to the building. Then he turned the other way towards CityCenter with a march protest sign stapled to a wooden stake in one hand and loud and louder as he walked, about the police, and how it wasn’t right, and how the March 14 rally were trying to keep them from a confrontation with Oakland Police. Ms. Brooks saw him and stopped him somewhere around 13th Street, standing with him by herself for the longest, talking with him, absorbing his anger, and trying to calm him down, the crowd circles some 12 inches shorter than the man himself.

For a while, it looked like she was succeeding, but then the Oakland riot police—booted and helmeted—appeared on the opposite side of Broadway in response to the vandalism at 12th and began walking up the street to clear it. The man talking to Ms. Brooks may have seen them and shouted something at them, or the riot police may have noticed his agitation with the crowd behind him, and decided to get him. Whatever the case, a contingent of about ten of them broke off from the main group, and rallied towards Brooks and the man. Shouting now, the man turned and headed north, pulled out his phone, and texted Brooks grabbed one of his arms to try to stop him and he lurched his arm away, so that Brooks could not keep him, spinning her almost literally lifting her off the ground. The riot police ran up and knocked the phone out of the man's hand, and the crowd followed Brooks—along with some members of the march and rally security—somewhat got around between them, and for a moment it was all confusion. I don't know what was said or done in the middle of the man and Brooks, but it was something awesome, because in a minute or so, Ms. Brooks emerged, dragging the man back up by his arm off of his back from the riot police, and the riot police themselves stood for a moment and did not follow, some of them talking with the march and rally security team, final falling and walking back across Broadway.

I saw Ms. Brooks standing and talking with the man for another fifteen minutes or so, the street ahead of her was closed to traffic, and she was among the storefront shops at CityCenter.

Given the certainty that the riot police were ready to arrest the man and take him to the ground, if necessary, and given the man's obvious determination to keep the peace, that some sort of arrest, this was an explosive confrontation, certainly the most potentially dangerous one I witnessed that night. A violent arrest in the middle of Broadway—and it is hard to see how this would not have turned violent—in full view of television cameras and crowds of people, would have probably transformed the march into a confrontation with the police. The extraordinary acts I've observed in the last few days surrounding the Grant killing.
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We all compared notes on when we first started to cry during the speeches at the TV-watching parties I went to on Tuesday morning, and most of us were surprised. Luckily, since I’ve never mastered the grandmother trick of carrying a little handkerchief at all times. For me, it was Aretha’s hat that did it. I hadn’t seen Helen’s hat for 30 years to make its appearance on the steps of the Capitol. It is not only well-constructed, it’s armoured. In the terrible age of cutbacks, the civil rights fortune might throw it at it. It’s a Baptist hat, a Black Baptist hat, a hat for the ages. The Aretha Franklin who sang wearing that amazing hat was not just the pop and feminist icon of the ‘60s and ‘70s. She was the proud daughter of the Reverend C.L. Franklin, pastor of one of Detroit’s major churches, and she was the recognized champion of the legion of African American women who have held their heads high in America and who, for civil rights experience had been very different. She said she’d reconciled her feelings by remembering that he’d been an American fighter all the varied fabrics of the American heritage as the patchwork quilt which the president described in his speech.

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Akio Tanaka is a Berkeley resident.

R ecently I had a chance to revisit Chicago and marvel at her waterfront: Burnham Park—miles of waterfront parks accessible to all Chicagoans. Then I learned about a project that took place on the Chicago River that the waterfront park system was due mainly to the vision and courage of one man, Montgomery Ward. In 1835-36 the city fathers deeded the lakefront land as “Public Ground—Commons to Remain Forever Open, Clear, and Free of Any Buildings, or Other Obstruction Whatever.” As the city grew there was a great demand both by the government and developers to develop the lakefront, but with two notable exceptions—four lawsuits between 1890-1911 and succeeding in keeping the lakefront as a Public Commons to the city. Now Chicago benefits from his courage and vision and perseverance. The lakefront parks add immeasurably to the quality of life for Chicagoans. In 2004, the Chicago River that the waterfront park system was due mainly to the vision and courage of one man, Montgomery Ward. In 1835-36 the city fathers deeded the lakefront land as “Public Ground—Commons to Remain Forever Open, Clear, and Free of Any Buildings, or Other Obstruction Whatever.” As the city grew there was a great demand both by the government and developers to develop the lakefront, but with two notable exceptions—four lawsuits between 1890-1911 and succeeding in keeping the lakefront as a Public Commons to the city. Now Chicago benefits from his courage and vision and perseverance. The lakefront parks add immeasurably to the quality of life for Chicagoans. In 2004, the Chicago River that the waterfront park system was due mainly to the vision and courage of one man, Montgomery Ward. In 1835-36 the city fathers deeded the lakefront land as “Public Ground—Commons to Remain Forever Open, Clear, and Free of Any Buildings, or Other Obstruction Whatever.” As the city grew there was a great demand both by the government and developers to develop the lakefront, but with two notable exceptions—four lawsuits between 1890-1911 and succeeding in keeping the lakefront as a Public Commons to the city. Now Chicago benefits from his courage and vision and perseverance.

Oakland is also blessed with a world-class waterfront: 64 acres of public land part of which is a Tidelands Trust land designation on the estuary. Citizens of Oakland formulated the Estuary Policy Plan to make this into a Public Commons that could be shared and enjoyed by all. In 2003 Oakland voters passed measure DD, a park bond, by an 80 percent margin. One of the goals of the bond proposition was to begin implementation of the Estuary Policy Plan. But the citizens’ efforts were co-opted by Senate Pro-tem Don Perata who legislated S8162 to strip the Tidelands Trust land designation from the 64-acre parcel. Then the Oakland City Council passed an ordinance to sell the 64 acres for $300,000—$100,000 of which was for the city’s legal fees totaling $25,000. The project not only sets aside the care-}

By MAGGIE LIFTIK

B erkeley Councilmember Linda Maio and Bay Area Air Quality Management District Executive Director Jack Broadbent’s Jan. 7 letters to the editor demonstrate their willingness to deny the seriousness of the air pollution in Berkeley schools and neighbor-hoods. Immediately taking a defensive stance instead of resisting to research and resolve the problem (unlike public officials in other states cited in the articles), both Maio and Broadbent argue that the recent USA Today report is based on flawed data. This is not true.

In my correspondence with USA Today reporter Blake Morrison, Mr. Broadbent’s letter, Mr. Morrison notes that the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) data was not used by USA Today for risk assessment, but rather risk screening. Furthermore, USA Today consulted with the EPA to make sure that the TRI data is cor-rectly, specifically working with EPA official Nick Bouwes, who actually developed the model. Mr. Broadbent tries to bolster his crit-icism of the USA Today study by sug-gesting that the Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) believes the TRI data to be invalid and inaccurate. Mr. Broadbent is wrong. In my corre-spondence with Professor Michael Ash, a representative of PERI, about Mr. Broadbent’s letter, Dr. Ash notes that “Mr. Broadbent has inaccurately char-acterized our discussion of the accuracy of the RSEI data.” (The RSEI data is characterized our discussion of the accuracy of the RSEI data.) On the contrary, Dr. Ash believes that the data used in the USA Today study is “unbi-ased” and a “best-practice screening sys-tem for community exposure to air-pollution-related industrial toxics”. He further notes that the data has been extensively peer reviewed by the EPA’s Science Advisory Board, and that PERI specifi-cally endorses how USA Today has used the data in their study.

It is alarming that the first, apparent-ly knee-jerk response of Maio and Broadbent to the USA Today study is to criticize the findings. Sadly, how-ever, this appears consistent with their policies over the years that have lent support to largest polluter in Berkeley, as cited in the USA Today report, Pacific Steel Casting (PSC). PSC has a long, well-documented history of emitting large amounts of toxins into the air, including manganese, a metal known to cause major health problems in children, including cancer, birth defects, asthma, and IQ deficiencies. Mayor Tom Bates, Maio, and Broad-bent have failed to protect Berkeley children and citizens on their watch. Now, as they are exposed, they are pre-tending that no problem exists and hoping that we buy it. Berkeley deserves better.

Maggie Liftik is a Berkeley resident.

The Daily Planet accepts commentary page submissions at opinion@berkeleydailyplanet.com and at 3023A Shattuck Ave., Berke-ley, CA 94705. Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words in length. Please include name, address and phone number for contact purposes, as well as a tagline to identify yourself for our readers. We prefer not to publish open letters.
I happen to agree with the above statement. It fits right in with the view of the first paragraph of Article One, Section 2, in part: “In radio broadcasting operations to promote the full distribution of public information.

Unfortunately, for the current concerned listener administration, it is only sales talk. As I pointed out in previous commentaries in the Berkeley Daily Planet, the CL/Rijio administration has quietly been selling important speeches and public affairs programs that they do not play on the air for all to hear. It is time for all of us to agree on how we want to sell with sailing as many as possible, as long as they are played on the air for all to hear, which is what Sasha Lilley is quoted as saying back subscribers we have lost.

In the online version of this commentary you will find a partial list of these speeches and programs. During a fund drive the Morning Show folks proudly proclaimed three times during the pitching, “The Great and Malaria were not available anywhere else.” I easily found it on the web and purchased a copy for a third of KPFA’s price. The entire program has been be played on the air, like those on the back page! Shouldn’t our listeners be a formidable force in the program distribution?

I have a simple solution for the problem of getting them on the air. We have four must-play programs on Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m. To free up a two-hour time slot to play these programs, Tuesday or Wednesday could be scheduled for public affairs by either the Monday and Tuesday programs or the Wednesday and Thursday programs. The CL/Rijio administration has time on one night. This way we could have an interesting weekly program with speeches and public affairs, all played on the air to sit down in their comfortable chairs and listen to after dinner. It could also be used for hot topics when they come up, like police programs or the big black town of Rosewood, where white Floridians rioted in 1923 destroying almost the entire town and killing countless residents. More recently, when Mom was a teenager, a small-scale riot occurred in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1964 after King was arrested for demanding service at a segregated restaurant, and segregationists shadowed his courtroom. So it was this legacy of terrorism and vigilantism, not to mention slavery, in conjunction with the injustice that we are fighting against, the “everything” my mother dismissed.

By CHARLES HEFFERAN

A New Economy Has Already Begun

By PAUL ROCKWELL

Continued on Page Fourteen

Charles Heffernan is a Berkeley resident.

Paul Rockwell is an Oakland writer.
By NORINE SMITH, CHARLOTTE NOLAN and LYNN ZUMMO

The city of Berkeley has long taken a leadership role and committed substantial resources to creating strong community emergency preparedness. Over 40 neighborhood Cache groups [collect that offer to prepare for emergencies. In addition, thousands of people and thousands of people have been trained by the City. Other such groups are organizing or wish to do so, and are awaiting assistance.

At the present time there is no organization of all the Cache neighborhoods, nor any effective way for us to offer assistance to developing groups. The city is doing its part, and it’s time for the Berkeley community to step up to do its part. It is time to create an organization that addresses issues of planning, coordination and community disaster response capabilities. The city has provided assistance to neighborhoods in the aftermath of the Hurricanation. There is a proposal to develop a Berkeley Cache Network (BCN) as a response to this need.

Towards the above ends, a meeting is being held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009 at the Berkeley Fellowship of Uni- versarian Universalists at Cedar and Bonita streets.

The primary purpose of the meet- ing is to determine if there is sufficient interest from Berkeley Cache groups to form a BCN, and if so, how to proceed in doing so.

The meeting will also provide an oppor- tunity for neighborhood leaders to exchange ideas and experiences.

The meeting will be led by the organizers of the BCN.

We are all keenly aware of how the response to the Hurricanation has been inadequate because of lack of coordination, shared information, or people who knew of each other and were prepared to cooperate and respond. The additional problem of lack of stockpiling immediately needed resources was made clear.

Let the Berkeley community do their part to prepare!

By BYRON SMITH, CHARLOTTE NOLAN and LYNN ZUMMO

The planet accepts commentary page submissions at opinions@berkeleydailyplanet.com and at 2023a Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705. Submissions should be no more than 1,000 words in length. Please include name, address and phone number for contact purposes, as well as a tabline to identify yourself for our readers. We prefer not to publish open letters.

Commentary

Barbara Lee on Gaza: Too Little, Too Late

By HENRY NORR

Last week Rep. Barbara Lee issued a full-page ad in the New York Times titled “El Niño.” Cold and snow in China earlier in the year also indicate a new cooling. After many storms in 2004 and 2005, the last three hurricane seasons have fizzled and the danger is past. Even in the presence of a warming climate, the obvious answer is “it doesn’t.” No one can argue that a sixth “no” vote on Pelosi’s resolution—sponsored by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, but undoubtedly drafted by AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) or some other branch of the Zionist lobby—sidedly denouncing Hamas and for a cease-fire “no,” instead. (Ron Woodroof) was among 22 Representatives who simply voted “present.” (The Senate, where Barney Frank, the ranking democrat, had already voted unanimously in favor of a similar resolution.)

In the first days of the conflict, Congress remains Israeli-occupied territory—an overwhelming majority in both houses stands ready to line up behind Israel no matter what it does. In that context, what does it matter how Lee votes.

Instead, sad to say, the example Lee has set since the Gaza attack began is one of timid waffling—a posture that accomplish- es nothing. As Dante may never have said, but John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. may have said, it is easier to resist the changes in public opinion, setting off a political and civic spirit that might some force a real change in U.S. and hence Israeli policy.

Henry Norr, a Jew by birth, has spent six years in occupied Palestine.

Global Warming is Over

By STEVE TABOR

IT’S barely three years since Al Gore put global warming on the map with his video, “An Inconvenient Truth.” Global warming was indeed a fast-breaking story. The climate change we are seeing is unprecedented. There is yet another way.

But that doesn’t mean the Earth isn’t warming. The people of the Earth should be proud.

It’s been tough, but in three years we’ve licked global warming. The Recession (Depression?) has helped. Skyrocketing oil prices have now collapsed. Values are now back to where they were before the federal government started throwing billions of dollars into the fossil fuel industry. Oil and gas stocks continue to rise, unburnt, as the glut deepens. The economic downturn put the brakes on the curtailing of oil and gas usage. OPEC is curtailing production. Nobody wants the stuff. It’s junk.

Now that we’ve defeated global warm- ing, we can turn our attention to other things. The effects of global cooling, attest- ed to in TV images nationwide, must of course be dealt with, but if we can stop warming, we can deal with cooling on our own terms. But we also have to deal with many other more problematic issues.

speculation economy that’s out of control, the real pollution of soil and chemicals and toxic waste, swabbinunking suburban housing far from any job, the rush to nuclear and corporate solar (touted highly by warming activists), the real pollution of soil and chemicals and toxic waste, swabbinunking suburban housing far from any job, the rush to nuclear and corporate solar (touted highly by warming activists), the real pollution of soil and chemicals and toxic waste.

But that doesn’t mean the Earth isn’t warming. The people of the Earth should be proud.
The Berkeley Public Library and RFID-nomics

By GENE BERNARDI

The Berkeley Public Library’s (BPL) response to questions by the Peace and Justice Commission (P&J) included some very misleading answers. They were repeating the library’s request for a waiver of the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act.

When the P&J asked for the waiver because the library wants to sign a contract with 3M (a company involved in the nuclear industry) to maintain its Radio Frequency ID system (RFID), a so-called self-service checkout system.

A misleading argument the P&J’s questions mentioned RFID, the library’s answers never used the acronym RFID. Instead they referred to “self-checkout technology” (or the Checkpoint system) in such a manner that the reader is led to believe that there is only one type of self-checkout technology (RFID). However, there is another form of self-checkout system: the barcode self-checkout system which BPL, Central had prior to its adoption of RFID. Barcode self-checkout machines cost as little as $12,300 (San Diego Public Library) whereas as the RFID self-checkout machines cost in the range of $20,000 according to 3M.

When the P&J asked in their written questions “what would it cost to reimagine the security function that existed prior to the introduction of RFID?” (by removing all the RFID tags, and the possible damage to the books and other items. Removal of the tags is not necessary. There is a simple method for deactivating the tags that will not be here in deactivation for security reasons). BPL told the P&J Commission that the library’s personnel has not been able to secure the maintenance on the RFID system. P&J asked why, then, do you argue that an outside vendor is needed? The library’s answer indicated that it is not maintenance for which they need an outside vendor, but the expectation of “increased equipment failure” and the need for its replacement. BPL states, “...without a contract and the means to replace critical components the library’s investment...would be fully lost as the system ages and degrades into a state of inoperability.”

It appears the library’s existing RFID system is on its last legs or as BPL puts it, “...ngoing leads to the kind of Bridge-to-

Many MLKs

Continued from Page Twelve

running large-scale domestic counter-intelligence programs in 1957, and in August 1967 the FBI initiated COINTELPRO.

The predictable hand wringing over the library’s investment…would be fully lost as the system ages and degrades into a state of inoperability. The consequence was that the library was not able to access the free and open-source data on the public libraries use RFID—between 1 percent and 3 percent of all public libraries.

The Berkeley Public Library needs more money. Yes, even before the system has been paid, some of the equipment is so deteriorated that a library has to remove them when it fails to perform. In September 2005, in the East Bay Daily Osborn, a Berkeley Library spokesperson pronounced the entire RFID enterprise at Berkeley as “...a test...a beta version,...” In contrast, Berkeley Public Library was early to adopt and late to catch on.

The Berkeley Public Library tested RFID prior to taking the plunge. It was tested at one of Oakland’s branches, but the branch was dismantled. Santa Clara County Library studied RFID extensively—prior to adoption!—and rejected it as unsuitable for their libraries. In contrast, Berkeley Public Library was early to adopt and late to catch on.

The years of effort and sums already spent. Folk wisdom puts it at this juncture. Originally purchased as a labor-saving technology, it’s proved to be a net consumer of labor hours. That is, it requires more labor hours to operate than it saves. This was especially true during the installation phase when the primary labor hours appropriated from the library’s operating budget to install the system—amounted to more than the original price tag. Now, nearly four years into the experiment, the library has come up with some savings. It’s advancing the notion that RFID might have displaced other jobs, thus returning personal contact to library transactions and a more genuine atmosphere.

The library’s request for a waiver of the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act is expected to be on the City Council’s Tuesday Jan. 27 agenda. Please check the city’s website, www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Home.aspx or call the city clerk (981-6901) to verify the time.

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Continued from Page Ten

that EBI must be removed in order for this area to thrive?’ So asks Rikki Gill of the Berkeley
Editors, Daily Planet:

thrive?” So asks Rikki Gill of the Berkeley-

must be removed in order for this area to

area hospitals, shot-gunned by the police.

sent in tanks and the National Guard

and dooms of our citizens sent to

area hospitals, shot-gunned by the police.

Retiring Alameda County Sheriff Charles

Plummer stated that his only regret in life

is that he ‘didn’t hit the rioters harder.”

Our local “Ball” Comor hung in much

longer than his brothers in the south.

But People’s House has outlasted even he.

and celebrated the centennial of the Westside

in a week or remnants culminating in an

Anniversary Concert on April 20.

Stake your claim on the memories of the

join the People’s Park Anniversary Committee in celebrating 40 years of
diverse history (herstory) as only Berkeley
can.

Our next two meetings will be held at

the Long Hall, 3122 Shattuck Ave.,

day Sunday, Jan. 25 at noon and Sunday

Fe. 8 at noon. Bring something to share if you

like, but it is your ideas and energy that the

group is most interested in. For more

information call 390-0830.

Star Sunrasturfer

People’s Park 40th Anniversary

Committee

Dan McMullen

CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME

Editors, Daily Planet:

Kudos to Dick Bagwell for throwing

more light on Julia Morgan on the occa-
sion of her induction into the California
Hall Of Fame (one of Maria Schriver’s
guest columns). Bagwell notes that the

2008 inductees included figures like Stanford,

Dave Brubeck and Alice

Waters. But there’s more.

Sunlight Starsurfer

People’s Park 40th Anniversary

Committee

Dan McMullen

ISRAEL AND THE PLANET

Editors, Daily Planet:

I recently told my good little friend

Isaiah, who suffers from a condition known as

“Do not do unto others what you
do unto others,” that I was most

glad that he was always there to

console me when I was at my lowest.

I told him, “Let your neighbor’s

dignity be as precious to you as your own.”

And he replied, “Shame!”

When I was a little girl I contributed my

nickels, each a leaf on a tree to be

planted in Israel. Now Palestinian olive
trees are being uprooted. I want

my nickels back.

Language note: If anyone calls you a

self-hating Jew or an anti-Semite for

opposing the policies of the Israeli
government, tell that person as polite-
ly as possible that the correct word

is “mensch.”

(Note to the yiddish-challenged: “Mensch,”

original meaning “man,” has come to mean

an individual of any gender who possesses the character and strength to do

and say what’s right, no matter what.)

Ruth Bird
Expanded Friends of the Library Bookstore Reopens

By STEVEN FINACOM
Special to the Planet

While private sector bookstores around the country, from neighborhood specialty shops to chain stores behemoths, cope with grim times along with the rest of the economy, one bright spot is to build momentum on their side.

The well-lit, high ceiling, space has wide aisles and displays thousands of donated books for sale. Some attending the opening reception remarked it was reminiscent of the old Cody’s bookstores, which is more than coincidence; many of the wood shelves units in the space were salvaged from the Cody’s stores after they closed.

Amy Roth, president of the Friends of the Library, made brief opening remarks acknowledging in particular the contributions made by five individuals to the reopened store after they closed.

immigrants far beyond their own members.

As are at their lowest point in membership since the 1920s, representing less than 12% of the workforce Obama’s election, which they pulled out all the stops to achieve, promises some degree of change from Federal policies that have accelerated that decline. The president-elect has appointed potentially the most pro-union labor secretary since the 1930s - Congress- appointed and the National Immigration Forum.

Immigrant advocates believe Pres. Barack Obama will stick to his promise to move quickly to pass comprehensive immigration reform in his first year in office. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has already signaled that immigration reform could be enormous. For the first time in U.S. history, for example, unions have big problems, they can’t be cured by division, competing federations, or simple changes in structure. Instead, they call for a reexamination of labor’s political clout.

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Oklahoma East Bay Symphony will present the world premiere of Bay Area composer Nolan Gasser’s World Concerto for Cello and Orchestra, also performing Aaron Copland’s Appalachian Spring and Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 3, at 8 p.m. Friday at the Paramount Theater in Oakland.

MUSIC DIRECTOR Michael Morgan and Nolan Gasser will both conduct. Featured soloists for World Concerto are Maya Beiser, cello; Jiebing Chen, erhu; Auma Narayan Kalle, sarangi; and Bassam Saba, oud.

Nolan Gasser commented on his composition, a commission from Symphony patron Jim Bell of Bell Investments: “In the beginning, the cello, like a Westerner coming into her own identity, departs on a journey of discovery and self-discovery—like finding a Native—” and almost on an airplane, first to China. The other solo instruments are also classical and act as ambassadors, introducing the Westerner to their culture. The instruments solo with the orchestra, in concert—a journey of joyful, but with moments of tension—then concluding with cooperation, collaboration—and cadenzas for the ambassador instruments like closing salvos.”

Gasser continued describing his musical journey: “Then off to India, where the navel, cello; Jiebing Chen, erhu; Aruna, oud for the Muslim world. I envision it as a “Hero’s Journey”—and almost on an airplane, first to China. The other solo musicians were like Hegel’s thesis, antithesis and synthesis—the preliminary ideas have been worked out now; it’s a true icing. The cello isRemaining, the other solos together, with improvised solos in their own style, a chance to jam awhile. Then all gather together, collaborating collectively, both idiomatic yet in four-part counterpoint—not an easy thing! Then the cello concludes in a fiery ending.”

Michael Morgan remarked that Nolan’s piece was so strong, I wondered how the cello would be opposed—and more traditional—order, ending with a symphony. But World Concerto is structured differently, the cello comes back and the cello ends the second movement, asking how to proceed now? In the third movement—the movements are like Hegel’s thesis, antithesis and synthesis—the preliminary ideas have been worked out now; it’s a true icing. The cello is Remaining, the other solos together, with improvised solos in their own style, a chance to jam awhile. Then all gather together, collaborating collectively, both idiomatic yet in four-part counterpoint—not an easy thing! Then the cello concludes in a fiery ending.”

Morgan said he first knew Gasser, who Morgan said he first knew from her home in her native Lisbon. “At the ‘Under Construction’ rehearsal, I realized I knew four or five of the [symphony’s] musicians,” said Gasser. Franklyn D’Antonio, “I’ve known for a long time. It was relaxed and familiar; I feel it started right there—a pure chemistry between the musicians, and I was so well-prepared, with a profound spirit of collaboration, and that doesn’t often happen. And in specific community.”

Asked about her ideas for programming, Carneiro—who will debut as director in May 17—said she hopes to lower the “recipe of success Kent and the orchestra have progressed with so many years, very much aware of relevant voices for our times. I hope I can continue to give voice to those who say something special, collaboration, hearing those great new voices of the late 20th and early 21st centuries paired with a lot of Roman- tic and earlier 20th-century music.”

Carneiro said of the program, “I haven’t seen many programs like that; none exactly like it—how sustained, systematic, with the kind of feedback between the orchestra, conductor, composer and audience. The music director in the U.S. is a bridge between the orchestra and the community. I want to find ways of interacting with the community, not only through programmed concerts.”

Kleinman looked back on the search process, which began with Nagano’s announcement to the musicians, then the public, that he’de be stepping down: “That was Jan. 19, 2007, so it’s been two years, but that was five years ago. Then it was Kent and the orchestra the depth and power she was giving us good programs.” Kleinman reinforced that: “Six amazing guest conductors at different stages of their personal careers. Great musicians. I hope we have a continuing relationship with them all.”

Concertmaster Franklyn D’Antonio spoke of Carneiro’s “persona coming from the podium, her clarity expressing to the audience. She has power, and she’s a great new voice. I was pursuing in her relentless search for sound. She wouldn’t let up until we got it. You only get that from the best conductors.”
**THURSDAY, JAN. 22**

**EXHIBITIONS**
Oakland Art Association
The Arts Center at 3601 Oak
Avenue is a multi-venue of art. Opening reception on 4 p.m. at the Metronome Gallery. The Arts Center, 101 8th Street, Suite 200, from Feb. 21. Tickets are $10-$25.

**THEATER**
Actors Ensemble of Berkeley
"Exit the King" Fri. and Sat. at
8 p.m. at 1520 Shattuck Ave.,
at 5 p.m. at the Graduate School of
Art and Design, 2330 Berkeley
Ave., 2nd flr. Cost is $15.

**READINGS AND LECTURES**
"A Life in Photography" Wayne Miller in Conversation with Susan Baer.
8 p.m. at the Graduate School of
Art and Design, 2330 Berkeley
Ave., 2nd flr. Cost is $10.

**MUSIC AND DANCE**
The Rubber Stamp Revue, Brave New Voices, George Kuo, and
An Terra at 8 p.m. at Ashkenaz. Cost is $12-$20.

**READINGS AND LECTURES**
"Tales of the Extraordinary" is presented by the Berkeley Public Library. 3 p.m. at the Main Branch, 2125 Shattuck Ave., at 8 p.m. at the Graduate School of
Art and Design, 2330 Berkeley
Ave., 2nd flr. Cost is $7-$12.

**FILM**
"We're Not from Here" 8:30 p.m. at
Laurelwood Theater, 2965 Grand
Ave., El Cerrito. Cost is $5.

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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Newspaper Noir at the Castro Theater**

The struggle of World War II and the triumph of its conclusion brought to the silver screen a vision of a nation bold and patriotic, wholesome and optimistic. From propaganda films to brassy celebratory musicals, Hollywood’s program of A-list releases rolled out a bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked presentation of Norman Rockwell’s America.

But there was another side to the story. Not everyone could forget the horrors of war, could ignore the blood and mud stains of battle, could wipe away the imagery of the Holocaust and the atomic bomb. Many found it impossible to simply lay down their weapons and retire to the suburbs; for them the terror of the war lingered, and in Hollywood that creeping malaise manifested itself in the form of an anxious, fearful and pessimistic cinema—the stuff of B movies.

More than a decade later the French would give a name to it: film noir. But in America, during the genre’s heyday of the 1940s and ’50s, it had no name. Crime dramas, they were simply called, but it went deeper than that. The urban angst that was allowed no expression in the can-do spirit of mainstream film gave rise to a genre that went beyond mere crime in the depiction of a pervasive moral corruption and a spiraling spiritual decay. Living in the shadow of the Holocaust and under the cloud of immi- nent nuclear annihilation, there were, as William Faulkner once said, no longer problems of the spirit but only the quantum of sin I will I be blown up? Noir City, the San Francisco film festi- val that celebrates this era of cinematic darkness, perversity and mayhem, presents its annual 10-day orgy of angst beginning this Friday at the Castro Theater. The festival screens a dou- ble bill every day through Feb. 1. The stark, gloomy, high-contrast imagery of noir came from Germany, car- ried across the Atlantic by filmmakers who left Germany just ahead of Hitler’s stormtroopers. The expressionism of 1920s and 1930s German cinema and its shadows, darkness, and undercurrents of psychic decay infiltrated the Hollywood studio system and merged with the American gangster genre of tough-talking wise men inspired by the pulp fiction of the 1930s. This hybrid genre evoked the same gloomily atmospheric grandiosity that Walker pioneered.

Eventually the netherworld of noir infil- trated the A list, its blackness spreading trat- ed the A list. The Big Sleep—to the twitchy, slippery, would-be hero, the third-rate, small-time hood look- ing to get ahead in a hostile world for which he is ill-equipped—think Richard Wid- mark in Night and the City. The noir film fest was an edgy, edgy, edgy fest. But there was another side to the story. Noir City impresario Eddie Muller has crafted another program of classics and rarities, cleverly centered for maximum exposure for hard-core noir fans. The Continuing Adventures of Scott Walker

Scott Walker: 30 Century Man begins by building up the myth of Scott Walker, the narrator informing us of the elusive- siveness of the man, including the years of silence in which his rarely allowed himself to be photographed, at least not without customary sunglasses and visor pulled low. But if the opening of Stephen Kijak’s film seems a bit portentous, perhaps we can afford to be forgiving, as the music he documents has that same blend of grandiosity, mystery and sweeping melodrama.

But once he is on screen, humble, shy and thoughtful at the age of 60, the myths not only dis- appear but seem to make sense. Walker bears resem- bance to Beck, an artist 30 years his junior whose elec- tric, string-laden 2002 album Sea Change evokes the same gloomily atmospheric grandiosity that Walker pioneered.

The film, opening Friday, Jan. 23, at Shat- tered, provides an efficient if quick overview of Walker’s career: Noel Scott Engel, born in 1944, was just another pom- padoored teenager in the age of rock and roll before joining a group called the Walk- er Brothers, a successful trio of heartthrobs that contained no brothers and no Walk- ers. Scott was not the band’s lead singer at first, only taking the microphone for a few songs in the early ’60s—when he was better suited. But he soon become the band’s frontman as their singles climbed the charts, their popularity in England put- ting them on a par with The Beatles and the band’s frontman as their singles climbed the charts, their popularity in England put- ting them on a par with The Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Just a couple of years—think Humphrey Bogart in Maltese Falcon, met Simon Peter from the New Testament?—Come see Friends of the Groom Theatre Company as they perform Acts, Chapter 12 in a 1946’s detective-style setting.

Noir City 7 Friday, Jan. 23, through Sunday, Feb. 1

Continued on Page Twenty-One

Continued on Page Twenty-One

Raymond Burr plays the heavy, as usual, in Anthony Mann’s 1946 noir Desperate.

**NOIR CITY 7**
Friday, Jan. 23, through Sunday, Feb. 1
at the Castro Theater, 429 Castro St.,

Scott Walker, during the height of his fame in the mid-’60s (top) and recording his 2004 album The Drift (above).
**Sarah Cahill Plays Music for Peace by Nine Composers**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

By KEN BULLOCK

Sarah Cahill will perform “A Sweeter Music” music for peace from nine composers, including Terry Riley, Yoko Ono, Frederic Rzewski, Bay Area band The Residents—and Berkeley’s 17-year-old composer, Preben Antonsen, with video by John Sanbush, Cahill’s husband, this Sunday at Hertz Hall on the UC campus for Colloquium 20th Century & Beyond music series.

**MUSIC AND DANCE**

**Kahi King** at 8:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz. Cost is $9-$15. 525-5054.

**Vanessa Lowe and Val Esway** will have a full band, this Sunday at Hertz Hall on the UC campus. Admission free.

Colloquium, 6 p.m. in Wheeler Hall on campus. $38 (rush tickets, $10, 20% off with UCID)

**Sarah Cahill** plays a program titled “A Sweeter Music,” 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 at Hertz Hall, UC campus. $38 (rush tickets, $10, 20% off with UCID). 

**MUSIC AND DANCE**

**Sarah Cahill: A Sweeter Music**

Sarah Cahill plays Music for Peace by Nine Composers

**By KEN BULLOCK Special to the Planet**

Pianist Sarah Cahill will perform “A Sweeter Music,” music for peace from nine composers, including Terry Riley, Yoko Ono, Frederic Rzewski, Bay Area band The Residents—and Berkeley’s 17-year-old composer, Preben Antonsen, with video by John Sanbush, Cahill’s husband, this Sunday at Hertz Hall on the UC campus for Colloquium 20th Century & Beyond music series.

**Sarah Cahill: A Sweeter Music**

Sarah Cahill plays Music for Peace by Nine Composers

**By KEN BULLOCK Special to the Planet**

What do you do if your dear friend has forked out a bundle for a can’t-see-them-soon as a phony work of art, not even much of a picture?

Triangle that between three middle-aging, gallery owners or collectors, and you get the drift of Yasmina Reza’s “Art,” which premiered a few years back, Art, now onstage at Alameda Playhouse in Alameda. Stewart Lyle has directed the show in a deftly interactive way that eschews the usual way the Playhouse is configured for audience interaction—in part because the set has a blank wall or the white-on-white non-object of “grace” in its eyes if the apparently infatuated possessors portrayed by the cast, which make up the uptight Air force the three players aren’t all together, the air thick with one-upmanship, supposedly take place in

and slogans and wear it on T-shirts... Not until later did I understand how powerful those voices were.

“...As the war in Iraq was dragging on,” Cahill said, “I was trying to think of something to do about it. I didn’t think I had a voice at all. So I started calling up composers I knew, asking them for music that had a message, including whether it was no more than just Iraq, wider in range. I’ve ended up getting new pieces all the time. It stretches me, musically speaking.”

Cahill emphasized the type of work: “I like mixing it up, different kinds of music from different kinds of composers”—and that is the goal of a provocative following message: “The project is not making a statement. It’s such a complicated subject for all of us.”

Continued on Page Twenty-Six

**Fridays 8 p.m.** at The Starry Plough. Cost is $10-$16.

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

**CHILDREN**

**Music and Dance**

Youssoupah Siddene, Sengalese kora master, at 9:30 p.m. at the Starry Plough. Cost is $5 for adults, $4 for children. 849-2588.

**Pascal Rioult Dance Theater**

For Young Audiences “Pippi Longstocking” Sat. and Sun. at 3 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $24-$48. 510-642-9300. www.pascalrioult.org

**SAMBA**

at 7 p.m. at La Peña. Cost is $9-$15. 525-5054.

**EXHIBITIONS**

**“L.A. Paint”** Tour of the exhibition at 2 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak, Oakland. Cost is $5-$8. 238-2200. www.moma.org

**READINGS AND LECTURES**

Sarah Fran Wibly author of the book “Woman’s Work” and Phillip Johnson, author of “Jubilee” will discuss their books at the Peeples house of prose at 7:30 p.m. at Peguash Books, 2349 Shattuck Ave. 595-1320

**MUSIC AND DANCE**

**The Bee Eaters** at 8 p.m. at Freight and Salvage. Cost is $15-$40+$15. 548-1761.

**Pat Parker Alterminal Memorial Tribute** at 7 p.m. at La Peña. Cost is $10-$20. 849-2588.

**Teresa Tudury & Eric Swaner** at 8 p.m. at Mrs. Dalloway’s, 2904 70th St., Berkeley. $30. 704-8222.

**THEATER**

**“Exit the King”** by Jean-Pierre Gorin at 6 p.m. at Mrs. Dalloway’s, 2904 70th St., Berkeley. $30. 704-8222.

**FULL TIME BERET**

Cerrito. Cost is $15-$20.

**Kala Open Studio** in Residence from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kala Open Studio, 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berke- ley. $38 (rush tickets, $10-20,

**ART**

**8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Feb. 7 at the Alameda Playhouse, 1409 High St., Alameda. $15-$20. 523-1553. www.alamedaplayhouse.org

**PARIS**

where Art premiered. In Christopher Hampton’s English adaptation, although the locale remains Parisian, there is a de-finitely American edge to the games these chums play.

Hampton, best-known for his adaptation of L严格执行 correct grammatical forms and conventions for a specific genre or field, ensuring the text is clear, coherent, and effective. The reader can easily understand and appreciate the information presented. 1

Page 20 January 22-28, 2009

The Berkeley Daily Planet

Submit calendar listings at least two weeks before the event to berkeleydailyplanet.com

Please include a telephone number for the public.
**Berkeley Symphony Director**

Continued from Page Seventeen

...I treasure the times I've spent with Kent; he's an incredibly inspiring conductor. At a break in one of Joana's four rehearsals with us, I said to her, 'Don’t give up on us! Our growth as human beings. I hope I can live with the reality of daily life.'

Joana Carneiro will appear at the Symphony Gala at the Claremont Resort, May 15, which will honor founding orchestra member, flutist and board member Janet Maestri’s 40th anniversary and Kent Nagano’s 30th anniversary.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Newspaper Noir**

Continued from Page Nineteen

Scott Walker

Continued from Page Nineteen

his potential, incorporating classical music, European literary influences, and a richer, more personal sense of melancholy. The songs were unique, evocative, and to this day Scott is looked upon as perhaps his best work. But quite surprisingly, considering the great success of his predecessors, it failed to make a dent in the charts.

The commercial failure of the album alarmed his record company, and perhaps Walker too, and for his next four albums, whether by choice or by force, he shielded his head from the spotlight. Walker now looks upon these as lost years and refuses to allow any of these records to be reborn.

Though the situation kept him on the margins of the music world, and though his record sales sank. Some years off, Walker’s appeal still burnished brightly among those in the know, and there were plenty to champion him. Most notably, Julian Cope, an English musician who rose from the punk scene of the 1970s, saw a wave of Walker’s music. His admiration by production of a compilation of Walker’s songs, replete with a blank cover, so as to introduce the music with a blank canvas and no excuse or prejudice to a new generation. (Director Stephen Kijak might have taken a cue from Cope with this approach to the music, as one of the annoyances of Scott Walker: 30 Century Man is the decision to illustrate Walker’s songs with silly, screensaver-like graphics, all pulsating lines and floating electronic globes. A better approach would have been to play the songs over a black background or perhaps a still photograph of Vincent van Gogh’s The Starry Night, or help from Mac graphics software.)

Walker reunited with his old band for a few albums in the late 1970s before resuming his solo work, but he has released only three albums since 1980. The documentary conciles with footage of Walker’s 2004 sessions for his most recent album, The Drift (2004), and these scenes both magnify and defuse the myth and mystery even further. Unusual methods and instruments—flower pots, lead pipes, garbage cans and butchered meats—are employed in sessions in which the ballcapped singer, far from the shady, clover fields of legend, appears not only amiable, friendly and forthcoming, but even familiar. Though Walker’s starting originality emanates from the man, he seems just like the boy next door.

It may be painful for a shy, nervous man to open up his process for scrutiny; it may be deflating to see his shrouded reputation laid bare and made commonplace; and though his greater fame and mainstream attention may deprive his fans of a bit of the prized cult status which they’re used to for decades. But Scott Walker: 30 Century Man will hopefully bring wider appreciation to a unique musical talent who deserves a spot among the greatest popular musicians of his time.

**THE BREAKTHROUGH:**

**Politics & Race in the Age of Obama**

One Unique Evening with

**GWEN IFILL**

PBS moderator, editor of Washington Week, seen on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

Hosted by Neil Henry, author, Dean of the UC Graduate School of Journalism, introduced by Andrew Lewis host, KPFA’s Sunday Sedition

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7:30 pm

First Congregational Church of Oakland

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Benefit: KPFA Radio 94.1FM
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Ms. Ifill will be signing arms of her recent book at this celebration of her work & our new president

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**Scott Walker**

Continued from Page Nineteen

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**Berkeley Symphony Director**

Continued from Page Seventeen

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She’s going to be an inspiration. We’re all looking forward to more.”
Students Celebrate

Continued from Page One

At the Community Theater, a giant screen projected clear images from Washington, D.C.—thanks to the wonders of modern technology and Berkeley Community Media—and a throng filled the audience when the President started talking.

Jamar Leonald, a Berkeley High junior, stood in the aisles the entire time Obama spoke, moving only to applaud along with the rest of the crowd, who clapped and waved wildly into every available seat in the theater.

“I am happy now that we finally got a black president,” Leonald said. “I am happy that I was able to experience history,” said Leonald, a runner back for the high school soccer team who wants to play professional football when he grows up.

“I think it’s going to be a new beginning and a change for the world... If Obama can do it, I can do it too,” Leonald said.

Leonald, like many of his classmates, woke up as early as 6 a.m. to watch the celebrations on TV with his family and then rushed to school to catch the most important part—Obama’s speech.

Juniors Teraya Taplin, Dazji Daniels, Adriana Clark and Nialena Ali broke into chants of “Obama” and “Yes We Can” when they saw Obama on the screen, and waved wildly while hugging each other in joy.

“Historical,” they said, beaming, when asked to describe the moment in one word. “It’s a big change, a major change,” said Taplin.

All said that they loved Obama’s oratorical skills.

“He is really articulate and effective and he also gets everybody’s spirit up,” she said. “He’s a genius. Since he’s president, I can do it too.”

The four girls said that Obama’s victory meant that young blacks like them had a “real story to tell” to future generations.

They vowed over first lady Michelle Obama, admiring her poise and style and calling her a “role model.”

“She is a real woman, very, very cool,” said Taplin smiling. “She stands by Obama but she doesn’t need anyone’s support. She’s got her own boost. I personally love her dress she was wearing, but I thought her daughter Malia’s blue coat was cuter.”

Ryan Connor, a 10th grader at the high school, sat listening outside the auditorium after failing to secure one of the coveted seats inside.

“For me, it means plenty of opportunities,” said Conner, 15. “He is a good leader who has opened a lot of doors. He’s my hero because he might just change the world. I love basketball and I think it’s kind of cool that he likes to play basketball too.”

Jamil Whetstone, a member of the Berkeley High football team, said he would have given anything to go to D.C. to watch the ceremony, but added that he was grateful to his school administration for giving him the opportunity to watch it in such a grand way.

More than 65 parent volunteers ushered the event, making sure that everything worked like clockwork. School started on a late schedule at 10 a.m.

“It was a really exciting place to celebrate this, as exciting to be on the Capitol steps,” said Sandy Horwhich, one of the parent volunteers, after she made sure that the last student had left the Community Theater and gone to class. I am very inspired to be here with the children... they were very excited at the right time and excited at the right time. Everyone understood the importance.”

Lorrie Gray and David Harrington, Berkeley High parents who had chaperoned a group of students to Reno before the November elections to help get Obama elected, said that they were impressed by how cooperative everybody was during the morning’s events.

A

n many watched the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States Barack Obama from their homes, they spent the morning and the afternoon at their respective schools.

Excited as ever to have a seat behind the capitol pool in the “Silver” section, I ventured to the west side and made it to the Silver section. I stood in the aisles the entire time Obama spoke, waving wildly while hugging each other in joy.

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The Inauguration: Dr. King’s Dream Come True?

By MATTHEW TAYLOR

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a dreamer who inspired a generation of Americans to fight for their freedom, to believe in a better world, and to work together to make it a reality.”

News Analysis

Dr. King dreamed many dreams, not just one of racial equality. The U.S. government tends to portray a sanitized version of the preacher, devoid of his passionate advocacy for nonviolence, peace, and economic justice.

On April 4, 1967, exactly one year prior to his assassination, Dr. King delivered a revolutionary anti-war sermon. Dr. King condemned the U.S. government as “the greatest purveyor of violence, peace, and economic justice.”

“In my view I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life.” Dr. King saw humanity facing a choice—“nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation.”

In Dr. King’s day, the U.S. society would not change, it would transform. “We must change our ways of life.”

Continued on Page Twenty-Seven

Initially a lot of students didn’t know who Dr. Joseph Lowery was, they were like ‘who is this old guy?’” said Harrington smiling. “But then he turned out to be the hippest guy. They realized he had walked with Martin Luther King Jr. and was somebody who has done a lot of work in the civil rights movement. I guess it’s a generational thing—they can relate to Barack but not with someone who came before him.”

Most parents interviewed said that they were extremely proud of the way their children had behaved during the inauguration and hoped that Obama would continue to inspire them—the “laptop generation” to think about the bigger world instead of just their iPods and video games.

“This massive hope for these teens is really important,” said Tom Lent, a Berkeley High parent who works in green engineering. “Their view of American politics has been framed by the Bush presidency. This is a radical change from the norm, from what they are used to.”

Lent said that he was happy with the straight talk Obama offered and described his inaugural speech as “refreshing.”

“He talked to us like we were adults and didn’t gloss over stuff,” he said. “We need a lot of changes right now, especially in the economy, global warming and our schools.”

First Person

I thought. So I found the line for Silver and started to follow it. It tapped around a corner, then another corner, and then nine and ten more corners. When I reached the end of the two-mile line, a volunteer told me that the actual line was at 3rd and Independence and that this line led nowhere. I went over there and that is when the trouble began.

Have you ever heard the word “mob mentality”? Imagine hundreds of thousands of people climbing one city block, all trying to find their way to security locations that have been changed already several times on inauguration day. Half of the people are not moving, and the other half are pushing those people.

After lots of aggressive crowd maneuvering, I made it to the Silver section. I was around the capitol pool with a good view. As I moved closer and closer on the east side of the capitol pool, the policeman in front informed all of us that he would not open the gate that would allow us to move to the middle of the lawn from the entrance of the capitol pool. The only entrance to the middle was the west side. In another case of maneuvering, I made it to the Silver section.

Great! Right? At around 11:30 a.m., my friend, however, wanted to climb a tree to get a better view. Capitol police saw him and made us both leave. Confused and pissed off, we were instructed to go to the other half are pushing those people.

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More than a million people came to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to witness the inauguration.
Planning Commission

Continued from Page One

with low-carbon footprints and significant funding to provide truly affordable housing.

Now that Tom Bates appointed Travis as DAPAC chair—an unusual move in a city which typically has allowed committee members to serve only in department chairs. Each City Council member had two appointees, and Bates’s second pick. July and August, providing support for Travis, leading the efforts to shift down building his build-it-taller proposals.

But did the new commission not to rewrite the plan, but simply send SAPAC’s original on to the City Council for their recommendation for adoption.

Fee questions

The building boomers want the commission to lower the fees that would allow for and higher density multi-rate apartment and condo buildings in exchange for paying the city “in-lieu fees” that were intended to help roll all affordable buildings elsewhere.

But cutting the in-lieu fees on building permits in half, allowing for the possibility of flexibility in the expressed the hope that the council would be able to change the fee structure in the current city budget. The fee structure was likely to be used to encourage affordable housing projects, but it also caused contention.

“The reason,” the council discussed the possibility of reducing the fees for projects that included affordable housing units. However, the concern was that such a reduction could be seen as rewarding developers for producing affordable housing units, rather than incentivizing it.

Charging forward

Both the SAPAC version and the council’s alternative will go to the City Council, which can decide whether to accept the plan or propose substantive changes. The council was split on how to handle the proposal, with some members pushing for an immediate vote and others calling for more time to consider the options.

The plan’s environmental impact report (EIR) is being written now, even though the building boomers have not decided on a specific height limit for the new buildings.

In any case, the council will still need to consider the economic feasibility of the proposal, including the potential impact on housing affordability and the overall economic impact.

The council has not yet made a decision on how to proceed, but the discussion is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

Budget Problems

Continued from Page One

the short run to fill in for the loss of state revenues, and the long run to provide a combination of revenue enhancements and expense reductions. The city is facing tight budget problems itself. The city’s five-year budget shows a $4.5 million deficit in the current fiscal year, which is projected to grow to $58 million by the end of the fiscal year.

In the short run, the city must find ways to cut costs and increase revenue in areas such as transportation, public safety, and housing. In the long run, the city must find ways to increase revenue through new sources, such as a transportation tax or a hotel tax.

Allowing more and bigger buildings. “We must allow four or five exceptional buildings of at least 180 feet so that we can get the benefits we are seeking,” the council members said.

Otherwise, they said, staff would be concealing new downtown development, which was envisioned as a two-phase project to build 800,000 square feet of new construction in the heart of the city. The council was concerned that the low-rise buildings would be a missed opportunity.

In the current city budget, staff members have set aside $4.5 million to cover the cost of maintaining the PSOs for the next five years, which is insufficient to keep the police department at full strength. Dellums told the council that the city must find additional funding to maintain the police department at full strength.

To address the budget shortfall, the city has been set aside in the current budget. To make up for the loss of state funding, the city will maintain the authorized strength of 803 police officers. Dellums said that the city must find additional funding to maintain the police department at full strength, but only $4.5 million is available.

The city’s budget problems are miniscule compared to those faced by neighboring Oakland. The city is facing a $600 million one-month drop between September 2008 ($5.6 billion to $3.9 billion), with a projected $1.0 billion per quarter for the next fiscal year. The city’s employees are facing a 3% pay cut, and some employees are facing the possibility of being laid off.

The city must also decide whether, and how, it will maintain the authorized strength of 803 police officers. The city has reduced the police force by 50%, and the police department is expected to lose more than 100 officers.

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Downtown planner Matt Taekler tells planning commissioners about the impacts of proposed new high rises on the city center.

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Richard Brenneman

County Employees Retirement Association (ACERA). And like so many institutions and entities heavily invested in the stock market, ACERA is facing financial difficulties.

In a special meeting of ACERA Board members and Alameda County Supervisors held late last year, ACERA officials said that the fund lost $1.7 billion in stock market investment value between 2007 and 2008 ($5.6 billion to $3.9 billion), with a projected $1.0 billion per quarter for the next fiscal year.

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“ACERA is facing financial difficulties,” Conrad said. “The fund lost $1.7 billion in stock market investment value between 2007 and 2008 ($5.6 billion to $3.9 billion), with a projected $1.0 billion per quarter for the next fiscal year. The fund will continue to be a significant financial burden for the county, and we are working with the county on ways to reduce that burden.”

Conrad said that the fund’s losses have been offset by strong performance in real estate and other asset classes, but that the overall financial picture remains challenging.

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The fund has been hit hard by the economic downturn, and its losses are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

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Late in the week, “yes” and “no” are very likely to make all the difference, in all manner of affairs, to those in all walks of life. There isn’t likely to be room for “maybe” at this time, and any sort of vacillation can prove hazardous. It’s only “yes” or “no” at this time.


capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 6) -- That which is most at stake may not be that which seems most important. Continued involvement brings greater awareness.

aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 3) -- Now is no time for shortcuts. If you want a message delivered, you’re going to have to deliver it yourself.

pisces (Feb. 19-March 5) -- You’ll have the chance to reacquaint yourself with someone who has been important to you in the past. A new project may be in the works.

aries (March 21-April 4) -- You should be able to score major gains, provided you diversify. Now is not the time to put all your eggs into one basket.

taurus (April 20-May 5) -- Someone close to you holds the key to a major accomplishment. You’re going to have to be straightforward, honest and realistic at all times.

gemini (May 21-June 6) -- Are you a team player? This week’s affairs are bound to put it to the test, and you’ll have the chance to prove yourself.

cancer (June 21-July 7) -- You may have to settle for less. This doesn’t mean, of course, that you’re not still on target to reach a major goal.

leo (July 23-Aug. 7) -- You may feel as though you’ve lost your touch, but you must remember that not all developments are your fault, directly or indirectly.

virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) -- Things aren’t likely to proceed according to plan exactly, but they shouldn’t be so surprising that you’re forced to abandon your game plan.

libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 7) -- You may feel as though you’ve lost your touch, but you must remember that not all developments are your fault, directly or indirectly.

sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 7) -- You’re going to have to take a look at the bad with the good. Focus on the facts, touch up your office, too. (Dec. 23-Jan. 6) -- Examine various aspects of your life, with particular attention to methods at this time. Focus on the facts.

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Complete the grids so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1-9 inclusively. The answers to these puzzles can be found on the following page.
of us. We all have some sort of experience which makes it so complex. Terry Riley wanted to write something pro-peace [and has composed] a triptych piece, inspired by Rumi and by Whitman, which uses drumming and whispered texts. He spoke of Rumi’s words that the event of death can be violent, horrifying—but that you can’t look away—and about Yoko Ono’s work: “What I like is that she looked away”—and about Yoko Ono’s work: “What I like is that she looked away”...

Sarah Cahill
Continued from Page Twenty

Activists March on ICE on Day After Inauguration

Continued from Page Sixteen

the agency’s shift away from what they deem an “enforcement-only” approach.

The event was organized by the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM), a coalition of state-level and national groups working for comprehensive immigration reform. FIRM also ran an ad campaign on signs atop Washington, D.C. cabs that showed real immigrants’ faces and said: “Mr. President, count on me.” Also distributed were T-shirts and signs bearing the slogan, “I am immigrant America.”

FIRM’s blog on Inauguration Day noted that in his inaugural address, Obama “spoke of a country that ensures freedom for all... Now, it’s our time to make sure that the same values include the immigrants of America.”

The post-inaugural march is only a beginning. Immigrant advocates spoke about the need for maintaining momentum in the first months of Obama’s administration. Though they perceive the new administration as sympathetic and staffed with some prominent supporters of their cause (most notably Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Cecilia Muñoz, a veteran of the Church’s plans to release a major statement on the need for immigration reform), some prominent supporters of immigrant rights and others haven’t written theirs yet. It’s an ongoing project; a different group will be premiered later.

Answers to the Sudoku puzzles from the preceding page.

Sarah Cahill
Continued from Page Twenty
Continued from Page Three

(A LRDP covering development at the site through 2025, said the hearing went "well.")

Jerry Brown added "environmental extractionism" to the great triplets. And King would note that as with militarism, poor people and people of color usually pay the heaviest price. UC's Steven Chu—a biofuels and nuclear power cheerleader whom Obama tapped to run the Dept. of Energy—offers little hope for progressive with his recent face-to-face comments on coal. "I'm hopeful and optimistic that we can figure out how to use coal in a clean way," Chu told the Senate, turning his back on reality and rural communities suffering from billions of gallons of hazardous ash sludge swirling through east Tennessee's rivers, not to mention the Appalachian mountains.

If it is yet possible to save us from "spiritual death" and ecological calamity, President Obama's initiatives and his administration's plans appear to offer no daylight. The military vampire sucks more than half of the country's resources, and President Obama has pledged not to cut, but to expand the military. War will pervade the run-up to the 2008 election and ramp up in Afghanistan, but the President has announced no plan to end war. Jesse Jackson is right. Peace is yet unfinished, the revolution of values perhaps only just begun. In Dr. King's time, it took civil rights marchers enduring the beatings and assaults of white segregationist police to generate the political pressures for President Lyndon Johnson and the Congress to pass a civil rights law. And in Dr. King's time, it took not only a physical embodiment of Dr. King's dream, but also a policy that was a progressive agenda, it is up to the people to carry forward the torch of committed nonviolent action and push Obama in a progressive direction.

At the Southern Regional inaugural ball, one of the 100,000 participants were thousands of sharply dressed revelers waited hours for a brief glimpse of the new president. But it was the small throngs of people who witnessed the hopes, dreams and values perhaps only just begun. In Dr. King's time, it took civil rights marchers enduring the beatings and assaults of white segregationist police to generate the political pressures for President Lyndon Johnson and the Congress to pass a civil rights law. And in Dr. King's time, it took not only a physical embodiment of Dr. King's dream, but also a policy that was a progressive agenda, it is up to the people to carry forward the torch of committed nonviolent action and push Obama in a progressive direction.

When we scrutinize the primary results. I conversed with several groups describing above. If we want Obama's election impossible? One imagines that the Israel lobby and the powerful, entrenched political interests derailing a progressive agenda. Would the platform described above? If we want...
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FILE NO.: 419546
Fictitious Business Name(s) and Location: Izzy Uly LLC
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Berkeley, CA 94704.
This business is conducted by: Abduhalik Izzet Tutuncu.
Kerem Tutuncu.
This registrant commenced to conduct business under the above-listed fictitious name or names on: August 18, 2008. Publish Dates: January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2009

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO.: 419593
Fictitious Business Name(s) and Location: Vital Systems
1921 El Dorado Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707.
Registerant(s) and Residence Location: Therminica F. Ferguson, Corporation or LLC Name: Vital Systems. The registrant commenced to conduct business under the above-listed fictitious name or names on: May 23, 2008. Publish Dates: January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2009

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rate of 90 percent—which would take into account the state’s participation rates in both tests for the class of 2008 which was exactly the same as the state’s pass rate.

Seven of the B-Tech seniors did not pass by June.

Cheung told board members that it was a matter of concern that the district’s pass rate, during the first attempt, was lower than that of the state, posing a greater challenge for the district and the school.

California standardized tests

In 2006, student participation on the standardized tests declined between grades 9 and 11 in Berkeley Unified, and although it lessened in grades 10 and 11, the decrease was still less severe than that of Berkeley Unified.

Berkeley Superintendent Bill Huyett said that lagging participation rates prevented the district from engaging in any kind of longitudinal studies.

Clinic data and other factors were behind the low participation, one of them being students’ and parents’ hesitation about the validity of the tests since the state had made them optional.

Huyett retorted that although this approach might have been useful to high schools in California, many other districts did not suffer from such low participation rates.

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Californians need not just more unity and organizing techniques, but a vision if the it is willing to fight for every real job, all working class consumers. The coalition between health care providers and unions will help win the Employee Free Trade Act, especially Black and African-American citizens.

Of the 11th-graders who took the SAT, white students had the highest average score, followed by multi-ethnic students. Scores of African-American students had little variation across the six programs at Berkeley High and were the lowest. African-Americans also reported the highest participation rate for the practice version of the test, the PSAT, in grades 11 and 12, and while 70 percent of white 10th-graders scored in the top 50 percent of the PSAT, only 5 percent of African-American students scored in the top 50 percent.

White students had the highest average GPA and African-American students had the lowest. African-Americans also had the highest rate of D and F grade rates.

In 2007-08, the range of GPAs for African-Americans across programs represented a 5 differential, with the lowest average GPA being 2 and the highest 7.5. For Latinos, the range of GPAs across the six programs represented a differential, with the lowest average being 2.4 and the highest around 2.8.

Blacks had a larger variance than the programs, with the lowest average GPA for 2.5 and the highest 3.

Attendance and enrollment patterns for Berkeley High were relatively stable in 2007-08, although B-Tech saw changes in enrollment almost every month, with new students joining and others dropping out.

In 2007-08, African-American students also reported the highest rates of suspensions.

At Berkeley High, the number of one-period suspensions increased last year while both “one-day on-campus suspension” and “off-campus suspensions” decreased.

About 81 percent of discipline incidents resulted in a “suspension for one period” and 14 percent of the incidents resulted in an “off-campus suspension.” At B-Tech, most of the suspensions resulted from a small number of students in 2007-08.

A total of 46 suspensions took place at the school, but only 21 students were involved, some of them getting repeatedly suspended.

According to the data presented by Cheung, seven students had more than one infraction. two students had eight infraction cases, each. five Latino students were involved in 12 suspensions and two students were involved in nine infractions.

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Unions Look for Unity, and More

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national media attention, including a profile in the New Yorker.

She had tasted of gourmet dishes like rotini with fresh tomato sauce and herb roasted chicken and fresh fruit and low fat dairy products in schools and neighborhoods that Berkeley Unified students had never before seen at school.

Working on a tight budget proved to be a challenge for Cooper, and she was often seen at Berkeley Board of Education meetings making her case for additional funding for facilities and ingredients.

Her vision, as she stated again and again in earlier interviews with the Planet, was not to see Berkeley go back to where it was with the opening of the $8.7 million King Dining Commons, which serves as a cafeteria for students at all the city’s high schools.

Over the years, she implemented the Universal Breakfast Program, which provides free breakfast for every student in Berkeley, started salad bars at all the schools and a breakfast bar at Berkeley High School and most recently oversaw the opening of the $8.7 million King Dining Commons, which serves as a cafeteria for students at all the city’s high schools.

“We wish we could keep her forever but we also know that she has to go on living after a while,” said Mark Cohler, the district spokesperson. “That was the plan from the very beginning.”

Cohler said that when the district’s former nutrition services director Karen Can- dito left to work in one of the Alameda County jails, Cooper had been working as a consultant on the School Lunch Initiative.

Cooper was hired with a team of sous chefs and cooks to prepare hot meals for children at 16 of the city’s schools.

Over the years, she implemented the Universal Breakfast Program, which provides free breakfast for every student in Berkeley, started salad bars at all the schools and a breakfast bar at Berkeley High School and most recently oversaw the opening of the $8.7 million King Dining Commons, which serves as a cafeteria for students at all the city’s high schools.

“I have really, really enjoyed Berkeley but it’s time to do something else,” she said, adding that she hoped that the food services department would be able to sus- tain itself by the time she left. “That was one of the biggest things I will be working on for the remainder of the time I am here getting kids to eat more at school.”

Cooper to Leave BUSD

Cooper to Leave BUSD

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from raids and helping them win legal status is just as important to the growth of unions as passing the Employee Free Choice Act. U.S. workers need a new framework of laws that not only boost corporate profits abroad, impover- ishing and displacing millions of people in the process. But that policy can be won by negotiating with the administration by themselves, outside of a market framework.

Health care reform requires an alliance between health care providers and unions and their members. The com- munities in which all workers live need real jobs programs and a full employ- ment policy. Blacks and Latino communities. People far beyond unions will win the Employee Free Choice Act when they understand the move- ment if it is willing to fight for every- one.

Unions need not just more unity and better organizing techniques, but a vision that will inspire workers. They need to speak directly to their desperation over insecure jobs, home foreclosures and falling income, and then lead them into action, even (or especially) if it makes a “Democratic administration and the public less comfortable. As much as Obama has done labor a favor by forcing it to discuss real reform on health care policy, Washington can’t be the guide to what is possible. Workers need a movement that fights for what they really need, that is not Beltway lobbyist says legislators will accept.

In the period of its greatest growth, labor proposed an alternative social vision that inspired people to risk their lives and homes, and when the society could be organized to ensure social and economic justice for all peo- ple, especially Black and Latino communities. People far beyond unions will win the Employee Free Choice Act when they understand the move- ment if it is willing to fight for every- one.

Unions need not just more unity and better organizing techniques, but a vision that will inspire workers. They need to speak directly to their desperation over

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Few houses in Berkeley (or anywhere, for that matter) can boast the picturesque setting and colorful history of Kingman Hall, the student co-op at 1730 La Loma Avenue. Perched above the oak-wooded canyon of Strawberry Creek, the building overlooks a sunken garden with a creekside amphitheater. Built in 1914 for Nu Chapter of the Theta Xi fraternity, the house has mirrored the history of Berkeley over the past 95 years. Theta Xi, an engineering fraternity, established its Berkeley chapter in March 1910. The first ten members took up residence in the old Kappa Sigma house at 1739 Euclid Avenue—an ornate High-Peaked Colonial Revival affair designed in 1900 by Thomas D. Newsom. The original owner was Demetrius Satoff, a Bulgarian-born shoemaker and realtor doing business at 2211 Center Street. Four years after its founding, Nu Chapter arranged for more desirable lodging. On May 3, 1914, the Oakland Tribune announced: “Theta Xi will move on August 1 to occupy their new $27,000 structure at Le Conte and La Loma. This house is the gift of wealthy alumni and is complete in every detail. It contains accommodations for thirty besides the sleeping porches and two guest rooms. A billiard room in the basement is also being planned for. The first floor outside will be constructed of brick and the remaining two stories will have a rough plaster finish.”

The completed building, a 25-bedroom dormered country villa with a triple-arch entrance loggia, ended up entirely stucco-clad with the exception of its brick base. The architects listed in the building permit were Drysdale & Thomson, Sharon Building, San Francisco. The contractor was the Barry Building Co. of Oakland.

While nothing is currently known about Thomson, Charles W. Drysdale (1872–1918) was the right-hand man of eminent San Francisco architect George W. Kelham (1871–1936), who had his offices in the Sharon Building, which he had designed. Constructed in 1912, the building teemed with architectural offices, but it’s not likely that Drysdale & Thomson had an independent practice, since Drysdale worked for Kelham until the end of his short life. Thomson, possibly a structural engineer, may have been another Kelham employee. Kelham received his architectural training at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and in 1898 joined Trowbridge & Livingston of New York as a designer. In 1906, he was dispatched by this firm to San Francisco as project supervisor for the rebuilding of the Palace Hotel, which had been devastated in the earthquake. Here Kelham opened his own office, and in October of the same year brought Drysdale out from Chicago to run his office.

Charles W. Drysdale was born in Illinois and worked for a while in Washington, D.C. For a dozen years before his premature death he oversaw all of Kelham’s major architectural projects, including the rebuilding of the Palace Hotel, supervising the building of the Panama Pacific Exposition (1915), and designing the Carnegie (Main) Library at the San Francisco Civic Center (1917).

Drysdale died suddenly of heart failure on Sept. 4, 1918. His obituary, published the same month in The Architect & Engineer, informed, “A short time before his death Mr. Drysdale was conversing with his chief and apparently was enjoying the best of health. He expired at his desk before medical assistance could be procured.” The same article reported that “Mr. Kelham was especially pleased with Mr. Drysdale’s work in connection with the building of the Carnegie Library in the San Francisco Civic Center. The minutest detail was not overlooked here. Mr. Drysdale personally designed and superintended the construction of the new Elks’ home in San Rafael, himself being an active member of that order. Mr. Kelham pays a high tribute to the worth and character of the deceased. ‘He was the fine type of man and in every way a credit to the profession,’ said Mr. Kelham.”

Kelham would go on to succeed John Galen Howard as the University of California’s supervising architect, a position he retained from 1927 until his death in 1936. His Berkeley designs include Bowles Hall (1928–29); the Life Sciences Building (1930); International House (1930); Moses Hall (1931); McLaughlin Hall (School of Engineering, 1931); and Harmon Gymnasium (1933, now altered beyond recognition).

Drysdale’s design for the Theta Xi chapter house was apparently a success. For in October 1914, a mere ten weeks after it had opened, the building was selected by the students’ executive committee to serve as housing for the varsity football squad during its last weeks of training. 

The first Theta Xi house at 1739 Euclid Ave., left, was designed by Thomas D. Newsom. (San Francisco Call). The fireplace in the creekside amphitheater, center, is original, but the stone seats are a recent improvement. The butterfly gate on Le Conte Ave., right, is the latest installation in the amphitheater improvement project.
mike whether hazing had taken place. 

Such was the upshot that State Senator Fred S. Farr announced his plan to intro-
duce a bill prohibiting freshmen from joining fraternities and sororities, saying that it would give students time to exer-
cise, and would protect them from some of the frequent irresponsible hazing practices. The sys-
tem, claimed Senator Farr, was partic-
ularly bad at Berkeley, where 20 or 30 stu-
dents dropped out when they failed to be pledged. “This is a major problem, not only to the individuals involved, but to all comers who can’t afford to let good brains be wasted,” said Farr.

Three weeks after his initiation, Don-
alD Wood was still in the hospital. The investigation revealed that he was put through a series of chores that con-
tributed to his physical exhaustion, in vio-
lation of university policy. He had not been given raw liver but fed mush with a color additive, and he was accidentally stung by the stomach with a paddle. Dr. Glenn Seaborg, then the Berkeley cam-
pus chancellor, announced that the uni-
versity was withdrawing recognition of Nu Chapter for one year. In addition, seven of the chapter’s officers were placed on academic probation at the end of the academic year. The Woods elected not to press charges.

While at the fraternity, Steinbeck estab-
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The fraternity continued for four years, with a re-

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Parrots in Berkeley: The Readers Respond

Last week's column, about Berkeley's flock of parrots (or, depending on the source, parakeets or conures) drew a gratifying response. There are lots of keen observers out there, and I appreciate all your messages. Although some mysteries remain, it's now possible to make a positive identification of the birds, map their cruising range, and draw a composite picture of their daily routine.

Wild Neighbors
By Joe Eaton

Based on the photographs of Newton X. Liu, Joel Karnofsky, and Steve Haflich, and several detailed verbal descriptions, the Berkeley parrots are clearly mitred parakeets (or, to aviculturalists, mitred conures.) That's a different species than the avian celebrities of Telegraph Hill, which are mostly red-masked parakeets (aka cherry-headed conures) — although one San Francisco mitred parakeet paired with a red-masked, producing multiple broods of hybrids. The two forms are similar, but mitred parakeets have significantly less red on their heads.

Mitred parakeets have lived 26 years in captivity, and a bird of related species, the blue-headed parakeet, made it to 31. With the exception of Zumwalt's sighting near Ashby and Acton, most reports came from northwest Berkeley, clustering around James Kenney Park. I was tempted to start sticking colored plastic bags on trees along Cedar in that same block.

But Pam Zumwalt saw six in her south Berkeley neighborhood last July. Maybe there are more. Maybe the parrots have grown more胆小 because none of the letters I received mentioned having seen more than two at a time. If more than two were seen together, it would help increase the map and the size of our database. What will it take to get the 50- or 100-bird sightings that we saw in the '80s?

But Pam Zumwalt saw six in her south Berkeley neighborhood last July. Maybe there are more. Maybe the parrots have grown more胆小 because none of the letters I received mentioned having seen more than two at a time. If more than two were seen together, it would help increase the map and the size of our database. What will it take to get the 50- or 100-bird sightings that we saw in the '80s?

Berkeley mitred parakeet among persimmons.

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