Protests Mark War’s Fifth Anniversary

By JUDITH SCHERR

Calling for immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq, participants in daylong events in Berkeley marked the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War on Wednesday with protests at the downtown Marine Recruiting Center and a rally in Civic Center Park.

At its height, the protest grew to some 250 people when Civic Center demonstrators marched to the recruiting center after the noon rally, but for most of the day numbers were smaller, with police sometimes outnumbering protesters.

The noon rally in the park featured a hip-hop band and Cindy Sheehan, peace activist turned candidate for Congress, who is running for Nancy Pelosi’s seat on the Green Party ticket. Addressing the young people, Sheehan, whose son Casey was killed in Iraq, said the growing debt to pay for the war will fall to them. “They’re robbing you of your future,” she said.

“They send jobs overseas and think you’ll join the military,” she said, urging the teens to “flip burgers,” if they have to.

“Do not join the military,” she warned, adding, “We have a right to say, ‘Marines, get out of our community.’ ”

Calling on the crowd to become active opponents of the war, Sheehan asked, “Why are George Bush and Dick Cheney still there?” and answered, “We let them be there.”

Organizers—the ANSWER Coalition, Code Pink and the World Can’t Wait—held a second rally in the street outside the Marine Recruiting Center at 64 Center Street over a 24-hour timeframe, describing the war of words, publishing dueling statements.

Meanwhile, a state scientist among cities to challenge the state Department of Food and Agriculture plan to spray the Bay Area in an effort to eradicate the light brown apple moth (LBAM) in more than 30 rooms, with Emeryville and Berkeley, proposed by Acting City Attorney Zach Cowan.

Meanwhile, a state scientist and UC scientist have begun a demonstration at the Marine Recruiting Center at 64 Center Street because of the spraying program.

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“They do not join the military,” she warned, adding, “We have a right to say, ‘Marines, get out of our community.’ ”

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Continued on Page Twenty-Four

Mayor Speaks Against War at Chamber Lunch

By JUDITH SCHERR

Flying in the face of his hosts’ concerns regarding demonstrations at the Marine Recruiting Center, Mayor Tom Bates spoke out about his opposition to the war in Iraq and support for peaceful demonstrations. The speech was delivered Tuesday at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon where the mayor was the featured speaker.

Bates also painted a rosy picture of the city’s economy, with flourishing hotels and restaurants, lauded city efforts to build downtown (perhaps up to 18 stories), laid out plans to build green and more.

Toward the end of his talk, the mayor introduced the topic of ongoing Marine Recruiting Center demonstrations on a light-hearted note.

On Monday and Tuesday, respectively, the El Cerrito and Emeryville city councils joined Berkeley, Albany and Oakland in their opposition to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plan to spray the Bay Area in August. City attorneys in these cities have been authorized by their city councils to discuss legal options among themselves to stop the spraying.

The city attorney has placed an item on Tuesday’s City Council agenda.

Emeryville and El Cerrito Say No To Apple Moth Spray Plan

Berkeley May Sue State of California

By JUDITH SCHERR

A movement among cities to challenge the state Department of Food and Agriculture plan to spray the Bay Area in an effort to eradicate the light brown apple moth (LBAM) in more than 30 rooms, with Emeryville and El Cerrito joining the fight this week and with a possible lawsuit spearheaded by the city of Berkeley, proposed by Acting City Attorney Zach Cowan.

Meanwhile, a state scientist and UC scientist have begun a war of words, publishing dueling opinions on the spray question.

On Monday and Tuesday, respectively, the El Cerrito and Emeryville city councils joined Berkeley, Albany and Oakland in their opposition to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plan to spray the Bay Area in August. City attorneys in these cities have been authorized by their city councils to discuss legal options among themselves to stop the spraying.

The city attorney has placed an item on Tuesday’s City Council agenda.

Continued on Page Twenty-Four
By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

One of the most highly anticipated Oak-
land election battles in years may have
been knocked off the ballot when veteran
District 3 Oakland School Board member
Greg Hodge came up one qualifying sig-
nature short to run in the June 3 race for
Oakland City Council.

The West Oakland/Downtown District 3
council seat is held by longtime Council-
member Nacy Nadel, who is running for
election to the county board.

The determination that Hodge came
close enough signatures to qualify for the
ballot was made by Keller after the Alameda
County registrar of voters had reversed
her initial ruling to disqualify Hodge, but
before Keller could review the petitions
and city council districts are identical.

killian did not go into much
detail on the particular invalidations, say-
ing that he was “not going to take
this lying down,” Hodge said by tele-
phone this week that he intends to challenge
the City clerk’s ruling in Superior Court. That
is apparently the only avenue of appeal,
since the Oakland City Council has no say
in the matter.

Assistant Oakland city clerk Marjo
Keller, who made the final determination
on the petition validation, said that “the
only way I would be able to put him on
the ballot is if I were ordered to do so by the
court.”

Meanwhile, Hodge’s “Hodge For Oak-
land City Council 2008” website remained
online as of Wednesday afternoon.

The determination that Hodge came
one signature short and needed to qualify
for the ballot was made by Keller after
the Alameda County registrar of
voters had reversed her initial disqualifi-
cation decision and had deemed Hodge’s
petition signatures sufficient to qualify him
for the ballot. Keller said that “there were
questions raised by individuals about other
signatures.” She said that 74 signatures were
turned in by his
candidates, including
the 50 required. She
determined.

After Hodge raised a protest, Keller said
that she offered to set up a meeting
between herself, Hodge, and the registrar’s
office to go over the contested signatures,
but that Hodge “went independently to the
county and met with them separate-ly.”

Following their second review of
Hodge’s petitions, Keller said that the regis-
trar’s office informed both Hodge and the
city clerk’s office that it was now qualified
for the ballot. It was
back and forth deliberations. Hodge said
that 74 signatures were turned in by his
campaign.

If Hodge chooses to challenge the dis-
qualification ruling, he said it will be in part
because the city clerk’s office initially
sent to the registrar’s office for signature
validation from the registrar’s
office, “there were questions raised by indi-
viduals about other signatures.” She said
she did not know the names of the individ-
uals, only indicating that they were not City
of Oakland employees, and saying that the
conversation in which the individuals
raised the questions with her took place at
the front counter of the city clerk’s office at
City Hall.

“If the petition is a public document,”
Keller said. “Anyone has the right to look
at it.”

Keller did not go into details about the
invalidations, saying that there were some signatures that were prop-
eratees, because they were signed by voters who lived outside of District 3,
but that enough signatures that got him dis-
qualified for the ballot were District 3 reg-
istered voters who were invalidated
because of hypertechnical application of
the election code.” Hodge said that the city
clerk’s office “has the discretion to make
the call to validate those signatures.”

Keller did not go into details in a tele-
phone interview, referring all questions back
to the courts rather than to the press.

The spokesperson for the registrar’s
office would not comment on the disquali-
fication, referring all questions back to the
city clerk’s office.

Nadel had only a brief comment to make
on Keller’s decision, writing by e-
mail the following statement: “I have
great respect for those people who take the step
to run for office and for those who will be running for office.

Campaigning is difficult and complicated
with a myriad of rules to follow that can be
difficult to understand. I would not comment on
any other questions to Hodge and the city
clerk’s office.

Hodge has served on City Council since
1996. Hodge first won the District 3 School
Board seat in 2000 in a runoff. Both initial-
ly filed to run for mayor of Oakland in
2006, but Hodge dropped out after former
Congressmember Ron Dellums entered
the race. Nadel stayed in the mayoral race,
eventually coming in third to Dellums and
second-place finisher Councilmember
Ignacio De La Fuente.

If Hodge is unsuccessful in his attempt
to overturn the city clerk’s decision, it would
be the third time in the last nine years that
a veteran Oakland-based candidate has
been disqualified from the ballot for com-
ming up short on valid petition signatures.

In December 1999, after serving two
terms as mayor of Oakland and then losing
to Audie Bock in an attempt to return to his
16th Assembly District seat, Elihu Har-
nis came up six signatures shy of the 40
valid signatures needed to qualify for the
March 2000 Democratic primary for that
assembly seat. Wilma Chan was nominated
in that primary, and eventually went on to
defeat Green Party member Bock in the
November, 2000 election. The disqualifica-
tion ended Harris’ long political career,
and he was later named and remains Chan-
celor of the Peralta Community College
District.

And in the fall of 2000, Ward 2 AC Tran-
sit Director Clinton Killian was 15 short of
the required 50 signatures on his nominat-
petition. Killian, an attorney, chal-
lenged the Alameda County registrar of
voters’ decision to the Superior Court, but
a judge ruled against him. Killian was
named to the AC Transit board in 1994 to
fill an unexpired term, and was later elect-
d to a four-year term in 1996. Greg Harp-
er, who currently sits on the AC Transit
board, defeated Joyce Roy in November,
2000 to replace Killian.

Killian is now one of several candidates
for the Oakland City Council At Large seat
in the June 3 election to replace longtime
incumbent Henry Chang, who took out
nominating papers, but then decided not to
run for re-election.

AC Transit Sets Fare Increase Hearing for May 21

The embattled AC Transit District is
considering its fifth fare change in the last
13 years, with a possible increase in adult
fares of as much as 25 cents and increases
to the youth and senior passes coming as
early as this summer.

AC Transit adult fares are currently set
at $1.50 and would rise to $1.75 if the pro-
posed increase has been set for Wednes-
day, May 21, 4 p.m., at a location yet to be
determined.

District board members are looking at
several different fare increase proposals,
some of which would include automatic,
regular bus increases in future years. In
the past, the district has always consid-
ered fare increases on an increase by increase
basis.

meanwhile, with district operating
expenses rising four times the rate of
revenues since 2005, at least one AC
Transit board member—Greg Harper of
Emeryville—also said last week that bus
services are also “inevitable.”

In recent months, AC Transit has come
under heavy criticism from riders and bus
drivers over its increasing use of the Bel-
gian-made Van Hool buses. In addition,
the transit district has been the subject of sev-
eral recent critical articles in both the
Berkeley Daily Planet and the East Bay Express.

The two-county transit district is also
fighting to implement a controversial and
ambitious plan to put bus-only lanes, a
system known as Bus Rapid Transit
(BRT), along International Boulevard and
Telegraph Avenue between South-
land, or Bayfair BART, and UC Berke-
ley.

—J. Douglas Allen-Taylor
Ten Students Arrested at UC Regents Meeting Protest

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

San Francisco police arrested ten UC students who chained themselves to the doors of the UCSF Mission Bay community center Friday morning in an attempt to prevent the UC Board of Regents from meeting.

About 100 students from five UC campuses rallied against the underdemocratic way regents are selected at “Free the UC Day,” organized by the Coalition to Free the UC.

“Students Against War, and Direct Action to Stop the War,” was also arrested against fee hikes. UC’s involvement in nuclear weapons and what they said was the School’s “Apartment Tax” for excluding under-represented minorities from the UC system.

Protesters arrived at the Mission Bay campus at 6 a.m., some driving from Santa Cruz and Davis. Thirteen students looped bicycle locks around their necks and clamped them to doorknobs.

“Nobody stopped us at first,” said Keith Brown, a second-year geography major at UC Berkeley. “Around 7 a.m., the police started to take people out. They used power to knock people were still chained on the doors. Eventually they took out the doorknobs.

Police and firefighters had to dismantle doors to take down the locks, a UC police officer said.

The group also appealed to the regents to come out and be part of an “Alternative Regents Meeting.”

“We wanted to show the regents how to hold a meeting,” Brown said. “But they didn’t join us.”

About 20 students spoke at the regents’ meeting during public comment.

“I told the regents that I had withdrawn all cooperation with the University of California until they stopped production of nuclear weapons,” said Panama Ramos, a fourth-year Ph.D. student.

“I don’t want to receive a title from an institution which is putting at risk our survival. I am not against science, but I am against the unethical application of science. Clearly, the university’s ethical prestige has been used to build nuclear weapons and atomic bombs. It is the most unethical thing to do. We want to take part in the decision of the university. We don’t want to be kept out.”

Free the UC member and UC Berkeley peace and conflict studies student Matthew Taylor criticized what he said was the regent’s lack of response to complaints against UC’s involvement in nuclear weapons.

“For over 50 years, students, faculty, and community members have tried to persuade the regents to stop building nuclear weapons,” he told the Planet.

“We’ve used normal means such as petitions. At one point, student governments from every UC campus passed a resolution asking the regents to sever ties from the nuclear weapons labs, to no avail. The regents’ lack of response has left us little choice but to escalate our dissent. We believe that the regents should be prevented from meeting and conducting the business of managing the nuclear weapons lab.”

Taylor—one of the ten students arrested—added that Free the UC wanted to start a mass movement to empower students and raise awareness about the need for fundamental, structural change in UC. Students also spoke before the regents against rising tuition costs.

“Some students have to work multiple jobs to sustain themselves,” UC sophomore Monika Roy told the Planet. “I think that we are paying a lot of money for public education. Those who cannot afford to pay are usually minorities or from ethnic backgrounds. In comparison, Stanford University recently announced that it would eliminate tuition for students whose families make less than $100,000 per year.”

Students also asked the regents to release the skeleton remains of 13,000 Native Americans held in UC Berkeley’s Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology.

“People were speaking from their hearts, but I think they went unheard,” said Maya Kelmeis, a UC Berkeley senior who listened to the public comments. “One or two of the regents were taking notes, but the majority were not listening. Some were talking and laughing with each other. There was no dialogue or discussion.”

Zachary RunningWolf—who was also protesting against UC Berkeley’s plan to raze the Oak Grove and build a student athletic center in its place—spoke at the students’ alternate meeting.

“They are making stands that help indigenous issues,” he said of the students.

“We want to keep our ancestors in the Oak Grove, we want the 13,000 bones back from the Hearst museum, and we want to stop the corporatization of UC. These kids have a very good sense of direction. They are attracting a lot of attention.”

Taylor told the Planet that the arrested students were charge with disturbing the peace and other misdemeanors and cited.
On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, the city was bustling with various events and activities. A film biography of Gray Panther at the Berkeley Community Theater was drawing crowds, and the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was gaining momentum. The Berkeley Camera Club met at 7:30 p.m., while the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was set to start at 4 p.m. at the corner of Shattuck and Center. Support the Iraq Moratorium was being promoted, and the Iraq Moratorium was on the agenda of the Berkeley Democratic Club. The Berkeley Peace Walk was also mentioned in the Berkeley Daily Planet, emphasizing its importance.

The Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club met at 2 p.m., and the Berkeley PC Users Group met from 2 to 4:15 p.m. The Berkeley Camera Club was hosting a nature adventure program for children at 7 p.m. at the North Berkeley Community Church. The Berkeley Camera Club’s meeting was open to the public, and the Berkeley Camera Club was hosting a nature adventure program for children.

The Berkeley Peace Walk was an ongoing event, with the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil taking place every weekend at 4 p.m. at the corner of Shattuck and Center. The Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was a powerful demonstration of the city’s commitment to peace and justice. The Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was also supported by the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil and the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil’s investment offers, at 12:15 p.m. at Berkeley Boathouse, 84 Bolivar Dr.

The Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was a community event, with the Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil being a significant event in the city. The Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was a testament to the city’s dedication to peace and justice, and it was an event that brought people together to support each other. The Berkeley Peace Walk and Vigil was also a demonstration of the city’s commitment to the well-being of its residents and the community.

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Future Uses for BHS Old Gym Discussed

By RYIA BHATTACHARJEE

Friends Protecting Berkeley’s Resources—the local group which sued the Berkeley Unified School District for an inadequate environmental impact report on the demolition of the gymnasium and warm-water pool within its Berkeley High South of Bancroft Master Plan area—met with school district officials and community members Saturday to discuss the adaptive reuse of the Berkeley High Old Gym and the warm-water pool to settle the lawsuit.

The lawsuit charged that the district had failed to consider feasible alternatives to demolition that could be developed to meet all or most of the district’s objectives and that the EIR “did not justify its findings.”

Both the district and the Friends group agreed on a charrette the results of which will be presented before the Berkeley Board of Education during a public hearing on April 9.

School Board President John Shea told Berkeley Planet that the settlement meant the district could now move ahead with deciding the future of the Old Gym, something the district had not been invited to the charrette.

“My idea is that the meeting was limited to between 20 and 30 participants,” he said. “School board members were not present. District Superintendent Huyett will give us an update Friday.”

Marie Bowman, a spokesperson for Friends Protecting Berkeley’s Resources, told the Planet that participants had discussed adapting the gym to meet the school’s academic and physical education needs as identified in the Berkeley High School South of Bancroft Master Plan.

The district’s South of Bancroft Master Plan calls for the demolition of the landmarked Old Gym to make room for a new classroom facilities, with the option of relocating the warm-water pool to Milvia Street.

Berkeley High is facing a severe space crunch, with teachers holding classes in portables at Washington Elementary School and on the steps of the Community Theatre.

The city is looking at ways to develop the tennis courts on Milvia Street into a warm pool but has yet to come to an agreement with the school district about its use.

Plans to put a $1.5 million bond measure to construct the new pool on the November 2010 ballot are being discussed.

“The good news is that we could accommodate everything in the building,” Bowman said. “The environmental impact report talks about building 10 to 15 classrooms to meet the academic need.”

Alta Bates, Herrick Nurses Stage Walkout

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Registered nurses at Berkeley’s Alta Bates Summit and Herrick Hospitals are walking out this morning (Friday) for a 10-day strike against the Sutter hospital chain. It’s the third walkout called by the California Nurses Association (CNA) since contract talks stalled with the Sutter hospitals, which negotiate contracts individually for each hospital or group. Alta Bates Summit includes the Berkeley hospital on Ashby Avenue, the Summit Medical Center in Oakland and Herrick Hospital in Albany.

CNA has called two previous job actions at the local hospitals, one for two days in October and another two years ago, a one-day action.

In both cases Sutter locked out the nurses following the gatherings, with all of the nurses absence to five days—a move the hospitals said was needed to attract replacements.

While the first walkout was supported by members of the Service Employees International Union, the two unions have since fallen out, most recently over rival organizing activities in Oakland. CNA represents Registered Nurses, while the SEIU, as United Health Care Workers West, represents Licensed Vocational Nurses and other hospital employees. RNs require a higher level of training than LVNs.

A total of 4,000 RNs will walk out at Sutter’s Bay Area hospitals, starting at 7 a.m. today.

Other hospitals affected include Sutter Delta Medical Center in Antioch, Miller Peninsula Health Services in Burlingame and San Mateo, Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, San Leandro Hospital, St. Luke’s Hospital and California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, extending to Sutter Solano Medical Center in Vallejo.

“After hearing final arguments Thursday, the judge ruled that strikes should be somber events, Sutter repeated a union schedule that stated that family-oriented events would be held every day during the walkout, including face-painting, arts and crafts and a noon barbecue.

However, Sutter’s hiring sources offer promises of their own, with HealthSource, however, noting in its call for replacements, “We’re looking for doctors and luxury hotels with all amenities available.”

San Francisco-based HealthSource and Colorado-based U.S. Nursing—agencies that specialize in hiring strike replacement—have sent first nurses to fill in for striking Sutter workers.

U.S. Nursing was offering $48 to $60 an hour for RNs, depending on specialty, with a guarantee of 40 hours of work, or a minimum of $5,800 per nurse of the strike is settled after they arrive but before they start work.

All travel and housing expenses would also be paid.

In one of the more unusual press releases, the hospitals also reported striking Sutter had the union for “Promoting a Party Like Atmosphere During the 10-Day Strike.”

Apparently, the hospitals thought that strikes should be somber events, Sutter repeated a union schedule that stated that family-oriented events would be held every day during the walkout, including face-painting, arts and crafts and a noon barbecue.

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By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

New responders

Berkeley firefighters have recruited a whole new crop of emergency first responders, said Deputy Chief Gil Dong. They’re the 200-plus UC Berkeley residents who will receive training under a new program formally launched this week with funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

The $18,000 grant enabled the department to assemble six emergency equipment caches to be kept in the off-campus Student Athlete High Performance Center and on the new rooftop of the stadium's southeast quadrant of the Berkeley campus.

“I attended a meeting of the National Association of Fraternity Advisers in Cincinnati, and I was told they didn’t need to duplicate the program in each chapter across the country,” he said. The Sutter emergency work force received the promise of an extra crew of first responders could make a critical difference in the event of a major disaster—a good thing, Dong said, especially in light of this year’s 140th anniversary of the disastrous 1868 earthquake on the Hayward Fault.

Jaws rescue

Berkeley firefighters used the Jaws of Life to extract a man injured in a two-car accident Saturday at the intersection of Ashby Avenue and Ellis Street.

The accident happened when a passenger car broadsided a pickup, trapping the driver of the truck inside his vehicle.

After extraction, the injured man was rushed to the Highland Hospital emergency room for treatment of his injuries.
Over the world. Now that many of these funds, hedge funds, and governments all sold their assets and liabilities and then repackaged them as securities with clever-sounding names, the once-universal underwriting standards and quality-loan terms that banks were using to rake in millions are now under the microscope of the Fed. These and other regulators, the Securities and Exchange Commission, Wall Street’s regulator, nat by as few as two years ago much capital was creating unsustainable debts throughout the financial system had risen to code-red levels. Only three days before the Federal Reserve felt compelled to bail out Bear, Stearns & Co., the failed Wall Street investment house, or face the possibility of collapsing banks and investors throughout the economy, Christopher Cox, chairman of the SEC, assured reporters that his team was on top of it and they had full confidence in Wall Street. He assured reporters that the SEC was monitoring Wall Street firms’ capital position on a “constant” basis.

“We have a good deal of comfort about the capital cushions at these firms at the moment,” Cox said. Three days later the Federal Reserve agreed to buy $30 billion of the worst securities on Bear Stearns books and arranged a shotgun wedding between J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Bear Stearns. If it hadn’t, Bear Stearns would have gone down in ruins in a bankruptcy filing. The SEC was asleep at the wheel, but Greenspan was the main apologist for Wall Street and the banking system. He repeatedly assured Congress and the public that the allowing the markets to do whatever they wanted to do was fine because an unfettered market was more efficient than one that had the regulators peer over its shoulder—despite the fact that history, and the Fed charter, strongly support the belief that left on their own, banks and investment houses will drive themselves and the rest of us off any precipice that promises great fortune. Does anyone remember the S&L crisis? Talk about deja vu all over again.

Don’t expect the financial markets to settle out anytime soon. Institutions all over the Pacific Rim and Europe are expected that they have billions in losses. Their books are still inflated by Wall Street securities, and corporate pension funds are still egocentrically underfunded by the companies that promised their workers secure retirement plans.

There are a few things you can count on, though: First, more taxpayer money will be used to bail out the reckless investors, banks and financial houses, without securing any benefits for the taxpayers. And when this crisis is over and the buying and selling and slicing and dicing begins again, Wall Street and the banks will begin another round of “market meltdown” regulation is what’s wrong with America.

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By RICHARD HYLTON

News Analysis

and “major banking crisis,” but how did we get to a worldwide financial crisis so quickly? It seems like only yesterday that Berke-
ley’s 1920s shingle houses were flying off the shelves for a paltry million each. And sure, a lot of people got mortgages that they couldn’t really afford. But the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression?

A few clarifying points: First, the crisis in mortgage is not nearly over and it is not only the so-called “sub-prime” sector of mortgagors that is tallying up increases in late payments, missed payments, and foreclosed homes. Many well-off folks also bit off more than they can chew. Second, we are no longer facing “just” a mortgage crisis: The value of many securities in institutional portfolios all over the world is now sus-

ceptible. The MIT math whizzes on Wall Street have sliced and diced all kinds of assets and liabilities and then repackaged them as securities with clever-sounding names. These securities were sold to banks, pension funds, money-market funds, hedge funds, and governments all over the world. Now that many of these

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By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Council Sets Key Vote on Downtown Plan

With an economic analysis to see if the plan could cover costs of proposed improvements while drawing up policies to accommodate 80,000 square feet of new off-campus university construction in the downtown, while drawing up policies to accommodate a joint city-

towers was the overriding concern.

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March Nutrition Month

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Up 420 Points! Down 293 Points! Up 261 Points! Down...?
M y mother’s relatives lived through the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, and they never, ever talked about it. No parents, no relatives, no one. One of the favorite family stories was passed down from one of her uncles, Theodore (always called “Uncle Thee”). Uncle Thee was an old-school black man, a slave who escaped the South and came through the San Francisco Earthquake and quaked through streets littered with overturned carriages and dead draw horses and fallen bricks. And, just to make up a story, he got into a building that was, just beginning to be laced by the flames that would later engulf and destroy much of this city. Perhaps it was a scene reminiscent of hell, and indicative of God’s vengeance on a sinful humanity. So reminiscent and indicative, in fact, that Uncle Thee said that when he came out of the water that afternoon, he was tempted to add “thank God.”

Uncle Thee’s reaction to the white fellow who rushed up to him, met up with a white fellow walking by who was followed by white security while white patrons went about as they pleased, left without either an apology or an offer of help, that I was under the hood because I had been robbed. “Why don’t you go back where you belong?”

Two of my daughters graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. During their time there, they learned to avoid late night walks past the white fraternity houses. Too many times, they said, they were greeted in the night with calls of “why don’t you go back where you belong.”

Where did they come from? Our family came to California before the beginning of the Civil War, one group by coach along the northern land route, the other by taking sea transportation down to Panama, crossing the Isthmus, and catching a boat back up to San Francisco. California’s population was not even 400,000 in 1860. There is a very small percentage of families of any nationality who can claim ancestry in this state from those days. And, yet, some drunken white kids hanging out a frat house window feel empowered enough to believe that the “owners” of the house are there to make sure that they are kept in their place—down as far as I can see.

Uncle Thee’s reaction to the white fellow who rushed up to him, met up with a white fellow walking by who was followed by white security while white patrons went about as they pleased, left without either an apology or an offer of help, that I was under the hood because I had been robbed. “Why don’t you go back where you belong.”

One of my daughters’ boyfriends got stopped, regularly, by police while riding his bicycle through their Los Angeles neighborhood. He gave the identification and explain where he is going and what he is about. When he protests, he is frisked and made to feel—by something, almost 40 years ago, that I should always be prepared to give a cop an account of where I have been and where I am going, to be able to explain where I have been doing over the past several hours, I was put over the hood of a police car up. It was only after he had determined my identification, and that I was unarmed, that he learned, upon asking, that I was under the hood because I had returned on a flight to find the battery on my car up. It was only after he had determined my identification, and that I was unarmed, that he learned, upon asking, that I was under the hood because I had returned on a flight to find the battery on my car up.

The issue of race, it would seem, continues to be a topic that African-Americans must have to address whether we want to or not, while our white friends can pick it up or drop it, at their leisure. There is no disowning or disavowing or denying our race. Our parents’ generation and my generation was to daily, voluntarily practice being African-American fools himself—daily, hourly, constantly—making a pretense of insanity—a denial of the world as it is—to prevent an actual insanity. That anger smolders in almost all African-Americans, and that even with such a different view of the world, we are told—by taking sea transportation down to Panama, crossing the Isthmus, and catching a boat back up to San Francisco. California’s population was not even 400,000 in 1860. There is a very small percentage of families of any nationality who can claim ancestry in this state from those days. And, yet, some drunken white kids hanging out a frat house window feel empowered enough to believe that the “owners” of the house are there to make sure that they are kept in their place—down as far as I can see.

One of my daughters’ boyfriends got stopped, regularly, by police while riding his bicycle through their Los Angeles neighborhood. He gave the identification and explain where he is going and what he is about. When he protests, he is frisked and made to feel—by something, almost 40 years ago, that I should always be prepared to give a cop an account of where I have been and where I am going, to be able to explain where I have been doing over the past several hours, I was put over the hood of a police car up. It was only after he had determined my identification, and that I was unarmed, that he learned, upon asking, that I was under the hood because I had returned on a flight to find the battery on my car up. It was only after he had determined my identification, and that I was unarmed, that he learned, upon asking, that I was under the hood because I had returned on a flight to find the battery on my car up.

But that is nothing. On Sept. 16, 1963, sickened by the events of the past day, I went to my American History class and refused to put my hand over my heart and say the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. If you are interested enough in knowing what happened on Sept. 15, you can look it up. For my part, my mind moved forward to the words “and justice for all,” and I knew that in all good conscience, I could not repeat these words. I stood respectfully with the rest of my class that day, as always, but kept my mouth closed and did not say the words. That silent, respectful protest was not respectful enough for my teacher, however. I was kicked out of my college prep class and down into the back-water civics class, where the teacher put his feet up on the desk and spent the first 20 minutes of class time, often, telling us how his wife’s pregnancy was getting along. I do not remember if we were furnished with a book.

Thus, my punishment, for my lack of loudly professed loyalty to America. Older now, and having seen more in my life, I do not even bother to stand during the various public displays of the pledge. It is a generation before me, and my children’s generation before me, and my children’s children’s generation before me. But, now it is supposed to be up to Barack Obama to explain why African-Americans have the luxury of ignoring the Race Issue.
I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Un做oue, I gazed, and gazed, at them
Till custom made them as a rule.
At last, thesavages left the way
And threw their hats and coats away.
Then all in one, they turned to run
And to the Top o' the Hill they aun.
Thus with the daffodils I点了
That I might see some sight of spring
Apart from any scene of mirth
That were for boys and girls and their delight.
Thou shalt not laugh at daffodils
When they are green, and thou shalt not mock
At daffodils when they are red.
They are the kings of flowers, and they shall
Shine in the sun and in the shade.
Thou shalt not laugh at daffodils
When they are yellow, and thou shalt not mock
At daffodils when they are brown.
They are the emperors of flowers, and they shall
Shine in the sun and in the shade.
Thou shalt not laugh at daffodils
When they are orange, and thou shalt not mock
At daffodils when they are purple.
They are the emperors of flowers, and they shall
Shine in the sun and in the shade.
Thou shalt not laugh at daffodils
When they are pink, and thou shalt not mock
At daffodils when they are white.
They are the emperors of flowers, and they shall
Shine in the sun and in the shade.
Thou shalt not laugh at daffodils
When they are crimson, and thou shalt not mock
At daffodils when they are black.
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Opinions expressed in Daily Planet commentary and letters to the editor are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Planet or its staff.

A Letter to the Berkeley Community

By WILLIAM HUYETT

Your new superintendent has enjoyed meeting many of you as I have gone to schools and attended events in our District 9 this month. Unfortunately, I come to the district in the middle of a state budget crisis caused by insufficient revenue.

In January Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed to cut public education by $4.8 billion. Although no budget has been passed, school districts are required to submit a balanced budget by June 30 based on the governor’s current proposal. This means a need to reduce the BUSD budget by $3.7 million from our planned 2008-09 budget.

This week you may hear the news that the district is giving notice to some certificated staff—teachers, administrators, and counselors—that we will not be able to employ them in 2008-09. Because 85-95 percent of California school district budget expenditures are personnel related, layoffs are almost inevitable for districts in the coming year. BUSD finds itself in this position. By law we have to implement certificated layoffs in March. Our board took action to approve these layoffs in February. Giving such notice is disruptive to teacher's lives and to the students we serve, but is necessary this year. I wish there was a more rational way to go about this process, but we have no other choice.

The board, with the help of our superintendent, the school board, and my staff, will review the proposals and will make their own recommendations to me. I will then try to put the best ideas from each group forward when I submit my recommendation to the board in May. The board will make all final decisions and must pass a layoff plan by the June 30 deadline.

As in any school layoff process we will notice more people than we will actually need. While we find out more about employees who will be retiring, going on leave, or not returning next year the number of needed layoffs may decrease. Additionally, as we make decisions about which positions and programs will be funded, some of the names can be removed from the list.

Each school’s School Governance Committee (SGC) is responsible for deciding the budget at each school. The decisions they make will not be easy. The governor has cut categorical funds (often the ones that go to schools) even more than the revenues that fund classroom teachers. SGC meetings are open to all and thoughtful input is always welcome.

It is tremendously disheartening to be writing a letter concerning potential layoffs as one of my first communications to the school community. I am, however, hopeful that changes that will be made in the state budget before it is passed.

We have a long road to travel together to get through this budget crisis brought on by the state’s fiscal shortfall. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

William Huyett is the Berkeley Unified School District’s new superintendent.

How to Help Stem the Tide of Public Education Cuts

By JOHN SELAWSKY

I write from a sense of immediacy, I write from a sense of continued need, and I write from a sense of both frustration and anger. Once again, after a 30-year history of underfunding of our public schools in California, Proposition 98 has failed to pass.

The state is cutting massive cuts and reductions in the state’s contribution to local public schools. Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, every major school district has received immediate, direct cuts. This means that our district’s funding comes directly from Sacramento, this potential loss is of major concern to the school and wider community. In a time of escalating utility costs, fuel, salaries, books, materials and supplies, the Governor has proposed a 0 percent cut of living adjustment (COLA) for 2008-09, as well as massive cuts in school funding. For a local perspective on the real price districts will pay, we are estimating that Berkeley Unified School District will lose between $3.7 and $4.5 million in the next school year! These potential cuts will impact every school and every program in Berkeley Unified. It is important for the public to know that there are no good or easy choices for the school board to make with possible reductions in revenue that are this deep.

There are additional costs to Berkeley and our school districts in California that will result from these proposed cuts. At a time when even state officials regularly talk about the state’s lack of qualified teachers, particularly in the math and science areas, almost every school district in California will be notifying the most recently hired teachers of possible lay-offs or reductions in assignment; we will unfortunately be laying off our most recent hires. Because they are expendable, unwanted, and under-valued. Furthermore, some of our classified employees, many 80 or 90 percent of our classified staff (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, custodians, janitors, maintenance, school nurses, food service workers, bus drivers) will have reductions in hours and/or elimination of their positions. Many of our classified staff are not paid as well as our teachers. Do they receive health benefits, sick leave, vacations, pension fund payments, and other benefits, all of which are increasingly less available for comparable positions in the private sector. Many of our administrators will receive pink slips as well. Because cuts and reductions will be so dramatic state-wide, positions for these people will be scarce anywhere next year. This compounds our state’s economic woes, leaves individuals and families with limited options, and seriously impacts the work of local school districts.

Our first steps as all of us can take to help our schools this during this exceedingly difficult period:

1) Call, write, e-mail our state representatives and the governor’s office, telling them to maintain the minimum funding that is guaranteed under voter-approved Proposition 98.
2) Involve your neighborhood associations, your friends, your coworkers, your groups or organizations you are a member of, and have the organization send a letter or fax to Sacramento and thank you for the funds to allow us to maintain our programs found in Berkeley schools as we make difficult decisions about the budget.
3) Draft a letter for your next PTA/PTSA meeting to send to Sacramento and other elected officials.
4) Participate in the caravans that will continue to travel to Sacramento to talk to and pressure the governor’s office, about the critical need to maintain public school funding. (One is definitely planned for the first week in May, and there will be other opportunities before then.)

Every school district in the state of California will be severely impacted by the proposals coming out of Sacramento at this time. Districts will be looking at reducing/eliminating athletics, arts programs, reducing staff, and increasing class-sizes to off-set the reductions in state funding (Berkeley is committed in maintaining our class-size averages, at this point). Please help us get the message to Sacramento loud and clear without reduction in Proposition 98 funding for our public schools.

John Selawsky is president of the Berkeley School Board

Food for Bodies And Souls

By MARY LEE NOONAN

On March 12 my husband and I paid for our dinner at a remarkable place where the dinners are usually free. Every day the St. Vincent de Paul Dinner Room serves an average of approximately 1,000 hot meals to people who would otherwise go hungry. Its large, sparkling white space was transformed for the celebration of two ongoing academic events—March 17 and March 20. St. Vincent de Paul’s devoted service in Alameda County and the beginning of their Kitchen of Champions job training program. The tables were set with the royal blue and white of St. Vincent de Paul and decked with yellow roses, Petals and votive candles, I was shocked at the Loni Hancock-Tom Bates voters and citizens, which is exactly what Wilma Chan has raised almost all of her March 17 Daily Planet article indicated for this coming June, in our District 9. The Barry Wolfsy writes on behalf of the Martin Luther King/Milvia Alliance.

Continued on Page Twenty-One

By MARY LEE NOONAN

Barry Wolfsy writes on behalf of the Martin Luther King/Milvia Alliance.

Continued on Page Twenty-One
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page Eight

We can’t say anything about what is going on with Mrs. Lowry, and made her look like a criminal based on articles that are biased against her. It is odd that the Planet would publish such a letter given the fact that Lowry was cleared of charges and has subsequently resigned. What’s the point?

On March 14, the Berkeley Voice published an article that said charges had been dropped against Mrs. Lowry. Your edition, published four days later, mentioned nothing about this new development. As a newspaper, you are supposed to keep people informed, and you have failed to do so. Your readers are still under the impression that Mrs. Lowry is guilty, when in fact she is not. We hope that your next issue will clarify Mrs. Lowry’s case.

Your reckless journalism has presented Willard Middle School to the Berkeley community as a school that has more problems than it does in reality. We were disappointed that you did not make her need known to the house manager. (Her independent decision to stand in the exit well is not permitted by the fire code.) Further, when Mr. Hoch made repeated requests for her to sit, she continued to stand. When the house manager was finally summoned and requested Ms. Stewart to stand in the lobby (where she could have comfortably watched the last 15 minutes of the performance) Ms. Stewart opted to sit, endure more pain, humiliation and whatever else occurred, to the discomfort of everyone in the theater that evening.

As for the event that occurred on a previous visit to the Rep, when an usher opened the locked door on a chilly night to let Ms. Stewart into the theater before the theater was open to the public, there are several cafes up and down the street which could provide warmth to patrons arriving early. The House Manager leads an orientation meeting with her staff of ushers, which is a private meeting and not meant to be overheard by the public. The usher who opened the door was not aware that there is a real need to permit premature entry to a patron, the HM is always to be consulted beforehand. In this case, the House Manager had every right to request that Ms. Stewart leave, no matter how discreet her behavior.

In the interest of full disclosure, I work as a volunteer for the Berkeley Rep, and I also have some house management experience elsewhere. I’ve worked in theaters most of my life in one capacity or another. I know that the well being of the patron is paramount in the view of theater personnel and it is always dismaying when a patron is made uncomfortable for any reason. To avoid any such incidents in the future, please make your requirements known in advance.

Nancy Chirich

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ELEVEN

A WOMEN PRESIDENT

Editors, Daily Planet:

Why hasn’t the United States joined so many nations and had a woman president, Nino Matocinos asks in the March 18 issue. A prime factor is that we are so focused on people’s gender or race that transcendent issues and qualifications are obscured.

Ol’ Hillary and Barack, he wins many fans by showing us how to look beyond our fetish with gender and race, beyond with such things as the media excessive attention to a woman’s physical appearance. In contrast, Barack describes in his book of memories about his father many meetings with women, and the book being autobiography, one might expect him to write. He was a tall, like

fied about any special needs, including seeing-eye dogs, wheelchairs, the need to stand during a performance, or any number of other conditions. The box office will suggest the appropriate seating arrangements.

However, the patron should also make a point to discuss these needs with the house manager upon arrival at the theater. The house manager is responsible for the well being of all patrons and volunteers; he or she may notify the cast regarding anything out of the ordinary (you can be sure that actors are very much aware of what is happening in the audience, especially in a theater such as The Thrust, where Mr. Hoch was performing). If something unexpected or unusual is going on, the intense focus of a monologist can be destroyed. The house manager will make every effort to find an appropriate seat for someone who says beforehand that they must stand at some point, and will also point out where in the auditorium that patron can comfortably stand, without violating fire laws, annoyming the audience, or disturbing the cast. I wonder why Ms. Stewart did not make her need known to the house manager? (Her independent decision to stand in the exit well is not permitted by the fire code.) Further, when Mr. Hoch made repeated requests for her to sit, she continued to stand.

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woman, one of those who could wear 10-inch spiked heels without falling over. No such body identity is in the book. And yet, the mind of one woman in particular is adored intensely. And when Barack goes to Africa, we readers are conditioned to expect him to write, “As the plane approached the runway I looked out the window and saw real African grass, and then I stepped on actual African land, and with my heart beating a mile a minute I took a deep breath and breathed real African air.” No, very little of that. Instead, his lengthy African section is about the interconnected and disconnect- ed social and political relations of his fam- ily.

Barack talks beyond our hang-up. Hillary wants us to feel good that it will be a breakthrough if either she or the black guy is in the white house. Scoring points on gender and race is becoming a distraction in a world of unchecked capitalism and melting ice caps.

Ted Vincent

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Continued from Page Ten**

**RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA**
Editors, Daily Planet:

Reading commentary about the scandal with Jeremiah Wright and Barack Obama this week, I saw that one man asserted “blacks in America are angry.” Reading the letter by Byron Delcomb in the March 18 edition of the Daily Planet, I believe it is better understand why that is. If American blacks would agree with Byron that it is a “racist action” when police take measures to attempt to apprehend a fleeing robbery suspect, and check out someone who looks like him, or that it is a “racist action” when unruly or disruptive or otherwise problemat- ical students are sent to the principals office, choosing to interpret these events as racist because the persons in these situa- tions are black, then no wonder so many blacks are angry. They are reading racism into far too many situations where there isn’t any racism at all, just cause and effect.

A simple solution to the problem of so much black anger, then, would be: stop try- ing to find racism everywhere you look. Your thoughts in part create your reality, and what you are determined to find, you will either find, or if you can’t find it, you’ll fabricate it. If you want to change the world, change your thoughts, and your reality.

Deborah Cloudwalker

Oakland

**OBAMA’S SPEECH ON RACE**
Editors, Daily Planet:

Barack Obama’s speech, “A More Per- fect Union,” recognized that many of us feel some degree of black anger and white resentment. He acknowledged these emo- tions while neither justifying them nor con- demning them. While condemning their hateful expression, he conceded that these feelings exist. Admitting them is the first step to dis- solving them and moving forward.

Obama spoke from the heart, from his true experi- ence of living in both our black and our white cul- tures. His life, indeed his DNA, embodies our truly American experience.

Obama mapped out a vision for getting beyond the distractions of race and racism, toward solving the real problems we face: war, economy, health, educa- tion, and environment.

An imperfect plan leading us toward a more perfect union, Obama is a mensch, a real human being, the real deal. After so very many years of lesser can- didates and presidents, let us hope that the American people can tell the difference. Per- haps even some political pundits, nay-sayers, and fearmongers will recognize his sensible helpfulness when they hear him.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont

**GREEN BUILDINGS**
Editors, Daily Planet:

The Berkeley High gym contains two pools, three gyms, and huge classroom spaces, that open out onto large playing fields. The state Historic Resources Com- mission unanimously recommended the gym for the National Register of Historic Places — it is now listed. So of course it is a no-brainer for the School Board to pre- serve and rehabilitate this noted building— isn’t it?

For the new mantra of every politician and city planner I read about is to proclaim “green, green, green.” We recently learned that half of the greenhouse gases in the United States are from buildings—not autos as most of us assume. And we citi- zens are encouraged to feel good about our recycling bottles, cans, and paper — this is small potatoes as compared to the ecologic effect of preserving old buildings instead of tearing them down.

And global warming is the problem from hell, so the adaptive reuse of existing build- ings should be the preferred option when- ever there is a choice. When the structure is well-designed, has good use left in it, and has meaningful links to the past, it should be a no-brainer. Coincidentally, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at the First Christian Science Church, Richard Moe of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Jon Carroll of the San Francisco Chronicle will speak on the role of historic preserva- tion in fighting climate change.

Well, I have surprising news for the citi- zens; the school board wants to tear down the Berkeley High gym. The planners and politicians, who shout “Green!” until they’re green in the face, have never seen a new construction project they didn’t like. In Washington they call it “pork-bar- rel.” Locally it looks like big-time real estate and construction money that domi- nate land-use planning in Berkeley.

So it’s only the concerned citizenry that can demand that the School Board call a halt to this “business-as-usual” demolition and big new construction, and remind the boardmembers that preservation is the ulti- mate recycling. The greenest building is the one that is already built.

Neal Blumenfield

Continued on Page Twelve

**IF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GAVE HIS “I HAVE A DREAM” SPEECH IN 2008...**

**LOOK, THIS WAS SIMPLY A POLITICAL SPEECH TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM HIS EXTRA-MARITAL AFFAIRS!**

**THIS IS KIND OF LIBERAL, TOUCH-FEELY MULTICULTURAL GIBBLEDUCK! THAT’S GET US INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE!**

**ENOUGH WITH THIS VAGUE IDEALISM! DR. KING, GIVE US SPECIFICS!**

**EFFECTS OF WAR**
Editors, Daily Planet:

Here’s a terrifying thought that occurs to me as I listen to the “Winter Soldier” testi- mony on KPFA. Young men and women who have been raised in families which promote values of decency and humanitar- ianism in their children, are coming home overwhelmed with guilt about what they did or didn’t do in Iraq. And, guilt pro- duces drug addiction, alcoholism, etc. Thus, the decent young women and men who have “served,” are the ones who are being sidelined, leaving the ones who didn’t, with us.

Robert Blau

*Continued from Page Ten*

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For the new mantra of every politician and city planner I read about is to proclaim “green, green, green.” We recently learned that half of the greenhouse gases in the United States are from buildings—not autos as most of us assume. And we citi- zens are encouraged to feel good about our recycling bottles, cans, and paper — this is small potatoes as compared to the ecologic effect of preserving old buildings instead of tearing them down.

And global warming is the problem from hell, so the adaptive reuse of existing build- ings should be the preferred option when- ever there is a choice. When the structure is well-designed, has good use left in it, and has meaningful links to the past, it should be a no-brainer. Coincidentally, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27 at the First Christian Science Church, Richard Moe of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Jon Carroll of the San Francisco Chronicle will speak on the role of historic preserva- tion in fighting climate change.

Well, I have surprising news for the citi- zens; the school board wants to tear down the Berkeley High gym. The planners and politicians, who shout “Green!” until they’re green in the face, have never seen a new construction project they didn’t like. In Washington they call it “pork-bar- rel.” Locally it looks like big-time real estate and construction money that domi- nate land-use planning in Berkeley.

So it’s only the concerned citizenry that can demand that the School Board call a halt to this “business-as-usual” demolition and big new construction, and remind the boardmembers that preservation is the ulti- mate recycling. The greenest building is the one that is already built.

Neal Blumenfield

Continued on Page Twelve

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**THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET**

**Page 11**
THE ECONOMY
Editors, Daily Planet:
I realize that listening to the morning news is not particularly conducive to one’s mental health. But, as a die-hard “newsaholic,” I plant myself every morning in front of TV to watch the 7 a.m. ABC program, “Good Morning, America,” while having breakfast. (This frequently results in severe heartburn after a steady succession of lurid revelations of sex scandals, corrupt government administration, Iraq fatalities and the escalating political battles.)

But a segment I find rather intriguing is that entitled, “Opening Bells,” originating from the New York Stock Exchange. If for no other reason, I’m fascinated by all those attractive people standing on a balcony at the Exchange, smiling blissfully and clapping their hands vigorously. Not to worry that the Dow Jones has hit an all-time low, that stocks have spiraled downwards and that the United States economy is going to hell in a handbasket. No, siree, nothing erases the broad smiles of these balcony people nor lessens their enthusiastic applause.

Who, I wonder, are these poor misguided souls? Are they robots, wound up in back like the wooden figures on cuckoo clocks, emerging from doors when the hour strikes? Or could this merely be a case of arrested development? Granted that the market made a miraculous recovery this past week, stocks will undoubtedly plummet again in the weeks to come. But again, not to worry. The familiar balcony scene will continue to offer Americans assurance that the economy is booming! After all, hasn’t our president told us so?

Dorothy Snodgrass

NUKES AND PISTOLS
Editors, Daily Planet:
The Supreme Court is reviewing the right to bear arms, and the military is planning to refurbish our stock of nuclear weapons.

There’s a connection.

As I read the Second Amendment, our right to bear arms is based only on the need to form militias; beyond that, the wording is ambiguous. I don’t see that we have the right to keep automatic weapons for personal defense. The United States is refurbishing its nuclear weapons, but at the same time objects to Iran gaining the capacity to have its own nuclear weapons. Where does the right to bear arms stop? If I’m allowed to carry a loaded pistol, is my need to protect myself against attack in my neighborhood more important than the public danger I might pose? I see the pistol and the nuke as different degrees of the same proliferation problem. There haven’t been any nukes used in war since 1945, but there sure have been a lot of people killed by pistols.

Steve Geller

ANOTHER AD HOMINEM
Editors, Daily Planet:
Peter Josheff’s bizarre letter is a perfect microcosm of what passes for the “liberal mind” in Berkeley.

Like the O’Malley editorial, there are no specifics, only generalized insults. I labeled O’Malley but also included a whole list of specifics of where she was wrong. And, pray tell, what is “overwhelmingly moderate”? I found O’Malley’s editorial on the Nader ticket rather underwhelming, intellectually speaking. Beckey has been guilty of much, but never of writing “moderate” (a weasel word) editorials.

And what does my rebuttal of O’Malley have to do with so-called gun control? I made my points on that subject at length last year to the point where I tired of repeating myself to the dim bulb statists among the readership. If your beloved Dummycrats get in November, you’ll see

Steve Geller
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The Green Tip of the Week

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Ouroboros LIVES in Zero Waste!

The mythical dragon Ouroboros eats its own tail. It’s a symbol of wholeness and cycles. In Berkeley, Ouroboros becomes more real the closer we get to Zero Waste. YOU CAN GROW THE DRAGON! REDUCE your use of resources. Buy only what you need, and buy things that are both recycled and recyclable. REUSE old things. When you let go of them, take them to a reuse like Urban Ore. If they are unrecyclable, RECYCLE for the resource value.

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THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET


The Green Page

The Greatest Legacy

We Can Leave the Next Generation

A Healthy Planet

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LEY AREA. I've lost my 1992 Civic VX getting 1990s Honda Civics in the Berkeley area. I've lost my 1992 Civic VX

Michael P. Hardesty
Oakland

STOLEN CIVICS
Editors, Daily Planet:
It would appear that thieves are targeting 1990s Honda Civics in the Berkeley area. I've lost my 1992 Civic VX hatchback. A friend just lost her 1990 Civic Wagon. My replacement 1995 Civic was recently broken into, but the Club stopped the thieves on that occasion.

In both cases, the cars were stolen, stripped of just a few parts, enough to have the insurance companies consider the car a total loss. The obvious, easily-replaced parts, such as tires, basic engine parts, etc., were not taken, but unique parts that cannot be replaced at a parts store were taken, such as a door, the interior plastic panels, and a cluster gauge.

Both cars ended up in Oakland (mine on Skyline Boulevard), and then towed to the same salvage yard. My car had the name of someone who had scopped it out and “tagged” it to be sold to him at the end of the 30 days in the yard. Many Civics were lined up with these names written on the windshield.

A trip to the yard showed dozens of these Hondas, with just a few parts surgically stripped out. I've since seen many of these odd parts on Craigslist. Inquiries were well received unless I mentioned that my car was stolen. Then the sellers wouldn't respond.

Oakland police offered no assistance, or interest in stopping these thieves by at least taking finger prints, or other information. If the police aren’t going to connect the dots, Honda owners need to protect themselves. Buy a Club, and use it every time. Buy one that locks the steering wheel to the clutch pedal if you can. Buy and use a car cover every time. Buy one that has a cable and lock so it doesn’t get stolen too.

Install an alarm. One with a kill switch will stop thieves before they can get it to their trip destination. A LoJack system with GPS will allow the car to be tracked and located.

Last of all, buy comprehensive insurance for your car with a low deductible. It will cost a bit more, but having a free rental car will help keep your life in order while you go through the process of getting your car back in order.

Alice La Pierre

APPLE MOTH SPRAYING
Editors, Daily Planet:
I highly urge the Santa Cruz City Council and other local governments in Monterey and San Francisco Bay Area to direct their local police departments to protect and defend the people from the aerial chemical pesticide spray bombardment that is coming again in June 2008 to our area.

Specifically, to direct our local police departments to use lethal force to shoot down the planes and helicopters that are threatening the health, well-being and lives of our communities with the state and federal government’s illegal and harmful chemical/pesticide aerial spraying campaign. It is the mandate of the local police departments to “protect and defend” the people—by force of arms—as a last resort if all other means of solving conflicts and disputes are to no avail (i.e. pending lawsuits against the state and federal governments). The local police are ones empowered by mandate and by law in our communities to protect the people from internal and external violent attacks and to secure the peace and security of our cities.

They have the weapons, sophisticated arsenals to tap and the obligation and the means to protect our communities from terrorist attacks. I say lets empower them to do their job.

Take cue from the city of Brattleboro, Vermont—who have recently passed a resolution to arrest George Bush and Dick Cheney if they ever set foot in their city.

Rafik Shakar
Santa Cruz

CLINTON AND OBAMA
Editors, Daily Planet:
Democratic presidential contenders, Clinton and Obama, continue their contentious prattle while Republican nominee John McCain looks every bit presidential chatting with world leaders.

Hillary wants Barack to play second fiddle on a Clinton/Obama “Dream Team” ticket. Hillary Clinton at the top of the Democratic ticket spells disaster for the party in November.

Hillary will energize and inflame the Republican base like nothing and no one else can. Look at what she has done to Democratic campaigning! What happened to focusing on the issues? Do independents and moderates want to hear Clinton/Obama party infighting. Leave hardball politics to the GOP.

It is time for Howard Dean and the DNC to rein in the Clinton campaign or we will be witnessing the swarming in of another “war president,” John Sidney McCain III, as our 44th president, next January.

Ron Lowe
Grass Valley
H

elvetica—a Greek tragedy? No, a
typeface. Who would think of
making a documentary film
about a typeface? And who
would attribute political significance to a font?
Well, the writers of this 80-minute film
did.

The film was originally released in
September for the font’s 50th anni-
sary. In the aftermath of World War II
and the dull 1950s, two Swiss typogra-
phers decided that big corporations needed a
shot in the arm. Helvetica was born, ef-
cient, go-getter, modern hype, and what
better way than a typeface that repres-
tated all of those characteristics, a
typographic voice, and encourages its use in all fed-
eral agencies and websites. Helvetica is

an.

as the chorus of peasants idling in
the piazza picks up the refrain—and her
fellow, would-be suitor Nemorino, who’s
cauced the storybook as if it was the
garter flung after a wedding, finds him-
sel in the same predicament.

Berkeley Opera’s sprightly staging of
Donizetti’s L’Elisir D’Amore at the Julia
Morgan Center takes off from there and
tells the musical tale with both insou-
ciety and accurate as the per-
sonation of the feeling of the
movement and gesture
vigorous counterpoint in
the scenes are filled with a

aspects and accents for Hindi, Urdu, Khmer, Viet-

mese, Chinese, Japanese, and Kore-
an.

Canada’s federal government uses
Helvetica as its identifying typographic
voice, and encouraged its use in all fed-
eral agencies and websites. Helvetica is
also used in the U.S. television rating
system, in federal income tax forms, and
also used in the U.S. television rating

glom on to without even knowing that
they were being hypnotized to consume
all those major products that have
used Helvetica—3M, American Air-
lines, American Apparel, Crate &
Barrel, Energizer batteries, Grey-
hound Lines, Jeep, Lufthansa, Marks &
Spencer, Microsoft, National
Car Rental, Panasonic and
Target Corporation, and many
more.

For example, Apple’s Mac OS X
uses Helvetica as its default font for
numerous applications, and the interface for the iPhone and
newer iPods uses Helvetica almost
exclusively. New York City’s Metropoli-
tan Transportation Authority (MTA)
uses Helvetica for all its subway signs.
And versions exist for the Latin, Cyril-
ic, Hebrew, and Greek alphabets.
There are even special characters and
accents for Hindi, Urdu, Khmer, Viet-
namese, Chinese, Japanese, and Kore-
an.

The village flirt tosses aside the
book of the romance of Tristan
and Isolde she has been reading
aloud, flippantly singing, “If only I

wanted that recipe” for the famous love potion,
dence in exchange for his last coin. It
also involves dubious practices in mili-
tary recruitment—so it’s a timely spring-
time show for Berkeley, indeed.

The complications of the plot unfold
felicitously, without the usual turgid,
often boffo, vertiginous operatic rever-
sals, due to its origin in a work by
Eugene Scribe, the accredited father of
the “well-wrought play,” the three-to-
five act predecessor to all the great com-
mercial vehicles of the West End and of
Broadway, and of the better Hollywood
movie scripts, sporting that dramatic or
comic “arc” reviewers talk about.

(“Send your hero up a tree, throw rocks
at him, then get him back on the ground
again,” as George M. Cohan memorably sum-
marized a three-act’s plot).

But every bit as much, felicity comes from the
fine acting of the singers and
the exemplary stage
direction by Robert
Weinapple. Never static,
the scenes are filled with a
vigorous counterpoint in
movement and gesture
that’s not just an illus-
tration of the feeling of the
music or of the words of
the libretto.

The lighting design by
Cameron Mook is as fluid
and accurate as the per-
formers’ style, showing
the contrast between the
scenes with the whole
company and the smaller
groups, the duets and
solos, playing over a set
(by Lili Smith and Kevin
Keil) of the village that’s
a divertissement for
all the sensibilities. This
“Elixir” also tests the ever-famous
placebo effect, when snake-oil Doctor
Dulcamara shows up and sells Nemori-
nonna a ceramic flask of Bordeaux as his
surefire romantic philtre, giving the
young man a big shot of hope and confi-

By KEN BULLOCK
Special to the Planet

T

THE BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 8 PM
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RIMSKY-KORSAKOV’s Scheherazade & the story of 1001 Arabian Nights
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THEATER

AltaBerke Playhouse “Chica- go” continues through March 30. Sun. at 2 p.m. at AltaBerke Playhouse, 2286 Cedar St. Cost is $10-$12. 548-1228. 451-5818.


 transfers to the preservation of the Berkeley Public Library, 2095 Kittridge St. 981-6600.

EXHIBITIONS

“Tonal Words” Photographs by George Tkacz, at the Berkeley Heights Bookstore, 2095 Kittridge St. Cost are $12-$12. 548-5500, ext. 25.

EXHIBITIONS


MUSIC AND DANCE

Michael McPhee, at 9 p.m. at Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave. Cost is $15. 525-5054.

Choral Society “Written and Performed by Carrie Fisher” Sun. at 7:30 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Oakland. Cost is $10-$20. 548-1159.

Jazz Spectrum “Three’s a Crowd” featuring Tracy Kohclay, spoken word, with Elisa Shaffer, piano, at 7 p.m. at Berkeley Art Center, 2723 Center, 9200. Tickets are $12-$12. 548-1228. 451-5818.

Rhythm & Music “Muse” and spoken word open mic series fea- turing Tracy Koryclay, spoken word, with Eliza Shaffer, piano, at 7 p.m. at Berkeley Art Center, 2723 Center, 9200. Tickets are $12-$12. 548-1228. 451-5818.

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra at the “Night in the Old Market” ball, Fri. from 8 to 12 p.m. at Berkeley JCC, 2080 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are $15-$55, benefits the Berkeley Museum. 521- 8448, ext. 282.

MONDAY, MARCH 24

READINGS AND LEADINGs

Leah Garchick in Conversation with Ron Charles, Sun. at 2 p.m. at Storer Library, 2035 Ashby Ave. Tickets are $15-$20. 548-1761.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Josh McPhee with the Tongue of Rats at the Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave. Cost is $15. 525-5054.

READINGS AND LEADINGs

“Sustainable Stewardship: Historic Preservation’s Essential Role in Fighting Climate Change” with Richard Moe, Muriel K. Blumenthal, and Ivy Cameron, Sat. at 7 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Oakland. Admission: $10. 548-1159.

Linda Dinh, in conversation with Marisa Lib- bertson, on “Red Head”, by Matt Duddman & Richard Brandenburg, at 8 p.m. at Freight and Salvage Coffee House. Cost is $15-$15. 548-9200.


Shera Dolson and 10 at 8 p.m. at 525-5054.

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Josh McPhee, at 9 p.m. at Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave. Cost is $15. 525-5054.
find a studio that would back him as RKO had with Kane, joined Republic Studios, a low-budget producer of B movies, mostly westerns. Republic was willing to support a project of his but a stark, sparse adaptation of Macbeth. Shakespeare was his foundation as an artist. As a teenager he had published a series of guidebooks for adapting the works of the Bard to the modern stage, and as a young man he had made his reputation with the so-called "voodoos Macbeth," a Roosevelt-era public works project in which he staged a sensational Haitian version of the play in Harlem with an all-black cast consisting mostly of first-time actors. Shakespearean tragedy underlies much of Welles’ self-written dramas, and he would return to the plays themselves on stage, radio and screen for much of his life. Welles concocted a multi-faceted approach to the new Macbeth that would hold down expenses while maximizing rehearsal. He took a cast consisting largely of players from his own Mercury Theater on the road to Salt Lake City, where they would stage the play three times a day for four days as part of the Utah Centennial Festival. The festival would pick up the tab for the costumes, Republic would pay for the sets. When the theatrical run was over, the company would adjourn to the studio where, with three cameras operating at all times, shooting scenes simultaneously, with the actors miming to a pre-recorded score. Just about everyone had shot the play in just three weeks. It would be a semi-radical but inexpensive experiment in stripped-down, stream-lined filmmaking. (This is in marked contrast to his next project, the nomadic, globe-trotting four-year odyssey that would become Othello.)

Welles first adapted Macbeth to a screenplay, using his own guidebooks to fashion a new stage version of the play, emphasizing the witchcraft and heightening the horror and melodrama in the Birnam Wood battle scene. He decided to recast much of the brash, barnstorming fun and frolic of Shakespeare, qualities he had lost over decades of staffy academization of the Bard. His intent was to use Welles’ film as a starting point for something quite different, for something purely cinematic. He then injected the screenplay to the stage for the Utah performances.

Much of Welles’ vaunted innovation throughout the film was the result of necessity, from improvisation in the face of less than perfect circumstances. His radio shows conjured whole worlds on a mere less weekly deadline; the shadowy photographic techniques of Kane was conceived primarily as a method of concealing the lack of sets; and

Continued on Page Twenty-One

The Shakespeare Films of Orson Welles

By JUSTIN DeFREITAS

Waltz with a few exceptions, when we talk about Orson Welles, we think of him as having created great cinema. Yet Citizen Kane is perhaps the only one of his films to reach the status of a cultural touchstone. A couple of others survived with only compromised production values as opposed to compromised content, but most of the Welles filmography is the story of films that are at best approximations, and at worst mere remnants, of the dreams that gave birth to them.

The Orson Welles of caricature—of bloated budgets and extended, meandering production schedules—would come later. In the 1940s his films were produced in the same manner in which he had produced his stage and radio projects. Budgets were relatively small, schedules were adhered to (though always pushed to the last second); planning and rehearsals were thorough but open to last-minute changes and improvisations. And in this climate he produced two of his greatest works: Kane and The Magnificent Ambersons.

After Citizen Kane, when RKO bought down RKO studios in 1941 by taking on William Randolph Hearst, the most powerful media mogul of his day, Welles' career took an unexpected turn. Though RKO and Welles survived the battle with Hearst, the studio became the victim of the era and ultimately the goul of Ambersons and the free-wheeling experimentalism of Welles’ South American documentary project It’s All True that finally derailed Welles, and he spent the next few years struggling to win back the title of his productions.

His reputation—some say, justly, some unjustly—became that of a troublemaker, an arrow-thrown into the commercial maverick. Having conquered Broadway at 20, radio at 21 and film at 24, he was not used to failure, or to playing the sump- tant. And he must have found it galling that his genius, which always included the successful marriage of commercial entertainment with high art, should be branded an unbankable risk.

The Stranger (1944) was a purely commercial product, delivered on time and under budget for International Pictures. With The Magnificent Ambersons, he had his fingers into everything, an arrow-thrown into the commercial maverick. Having conquered Broadway at 20, radio at 21 and film at 24, he was not used to failure, or to playing the sump- tant. And he must have found it galling that his genius, which always included the successful marriage of commercial entertainment with high art, should be branded an unbankable risk.

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Progressive Campus Ministry Offers Housing to UC Students

Continued from Page Three

ministry called the Wesley Student Center.

“We help students figure out what they want to do with their life and who they want to do it with,” said Rev. True Wong, president of the Wesley Foundation Board. “We offer a safe haven, a place for students to just be with one another.”

The student center will also feature a multipurpose room with a student kitchen, exhibit space and a country-style kitchen opening to the historical Wesley Trinitarian Church building, which boasts a heritage coastal oak tree.

The fourth-floor community library will overlook the courtyard and an open-air student terrace on the third floor.

This was an opportunity to utilize the underutilized plot of land with a single-story building to help students who are exploring their formative stage,” said Vincent,...

Future Uses for Berkeley High’s Old Gym Discussed

Continued from Page Five

needs of the school district. The warm-water-pool users wanted to have 14,000 square feet for the pool. The building also has to meet certain legal requirements. All that stuff fits in there plus there was room left over.”

The Berkeley High School campus, including the Old Gym, was named a city landmark last year and a national landmark in January this year.

Designed by renowned Bay Area architects William C. Hays and Walter H. Womersley, the gymnasia and the gymnasiun represent early classicist engineering work and are rare examples of historic structures in the 20th-century high school gymnasium.

The district wasn’t aware of the fact that since the building is now a national landmark, federal, state and private foundation funds are available for restoring the Old Gym,” said Bowman, who worked on the national landmark application. “FEMA funds are also available for rehabilitating the gym after a natural disaster. Berkeley voters approved Measure G, the school bond, which grants funding. For the versus the wasteful plan to demolish and rebuild. Our public officials have an obligation to continue sustainable practices in accordance with the will of the voters.”

Spencer also told the Planet that the district was not legally obligated to consider the outcome of the charette.

One Warm Pool Advocacy Group Co-Chair JoAnn Cook told the Planet that she was skeptical about adaptive reuse of the Old Gym.

“There’s a difference of opinion within our group on what effect this charette will have because it’s not legally binding,” she said. “We are split between what would be the best use for the pool and maintaining the current pool. I think the possibility of ending up with a pool is more likely with a bond. But keep in mind that a bond is very risky, especially with the economic situation right now.”

Bruce Vicines, a member of the district’s Citizens’ Construction Advisory Committee, said that Selawsky’s chain of command made him change his mind about the demotion.

“I was on the same page as the district on that, but the truth is that Berkeley Unified no longer has enough money to build classrooms in place of the Old Gym,” he said. “Also I wasn’t aware that people in the community cared so much about the Old Gym. It would be nicer for students to have more space, but given the uncertainty of the bond measure and the district’s lack of funds there’s no need to be at a rush to demolish the building.”

The school district recently hired ELS Architects to redesign the bleachers outside the track on Martin Luther King Jr. Way this summer and create a timeline for the demolition of the Old Gym. Berkeley Unified officials said they wanted the Planet that the demolition of the gym was not scheduled till 2010.

Fonts, Facades, And Frolicking Femine Fatalies

Continued from Page Fifteen

of corporate and government power, the Vietnam War, etc. They wanted something more humane and emotional, more individual, in other words, more modern—wild. Thus, we get irregular typefaces, even handwriting “type.”

I found the film engaging both because it was framed in this political context, but also because it was fascinating to catch and read on all this manipulation that managed to pass by me. By the same token, Helvetica is part of the Latin name for Confederaatio Helvetica, that spawned the two co-creators of this ubiquitous advertising fascino.

Helvetica is currently available on DVD. A Blu-Ray edition will be released May 6.

—E.C. Jeline

Antonio Gaudi

Antonio Gaudi is a cinematic poem, a path of lines and contrasts of a visionary architect. Japanese director Hiroshi Teshigahara glides his camera around the semiradial facade of the Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona, but they intersect and create an languarduous absorption of Gaudi’s sanctum sanctorum.

The two-disc set from Criterion includes a new transfer of the film and a wealth of bonus material, including the director’s own from footage from his first encounter with Gaudi’s work as a young man on a trip to Spain. The film contains interviews with the filmmaker and the architect.

—Justin DeFreitas

Forbidden Hollywood, Volume II

Warner Bros. has released the second in its Forbidden Hollywood DVD collection of Pre-Code films from the early 1930s. The first set included Baby Face and the more famous These Three. The second sets of the era, while the new collection includes some of the most influential Pre-Code films and many interesting Others.

The set starts off with two tear-stained vehicles' Wurlitzer Girls, a story of a woman who responds to her husband’s infidelity with a pledge to live as a man lives, and thus their espionage of extramarital dalliances that the enforcement of the Code would crack down on in just a few years. Not for decades would women on screen be able to live and love as freely. Also featured is Shearer’s follow-up, A Free Soul (1931)

Ruthless (1934) runs an automobile factory in Female (1933), taking and cast-aside lovers from her stable of males and transfers them to a Canadian subsidiary if they get too attached. Eventually she meets her match, and realizes that there are more things going on. As the feminism department until finally crashing in the end with a severe copout in which she transfers control of the firm to her husband while setting out on her new goal of producing as many as nine children.

Three on a Match (1933) shows Bette Davis, Joan Blondell and Ann Dvorak as they grow from children to women, and along the way slipping into a life of drug addiction. Humphrey Bogart plays a small role as a gypsy type.

Last is Night Nurse (1931), a drama about a female doctor in a small town who is called on the case of child abuse. The film is a mix of bread and butter, with a comedy element. In this case, the cheesecake as numerous pretenses are found for Stanley and Blondell to recurrently stuff their clothing. Also included is a documentary, Thou Shalt Not Sex, Sin and Censorship in Pre-Code Hollywood, that puts these films in historical context, sketching out the scandals that led to Hollywood’s first tepid and later stringent efforts at self-censorship.

—Justin DeFreitas

Fonzie's 'L'Elisir D'Amore'

Continued from Page Fifteen

even better, finding so many funny and sympathetic nuances playing and singing the fly-by-night Doltole Duscarem. But even more, I believe that the success of the comedy never blinds the emotional reactions. Angela Mezzanotte as Nemorino have their own, well-played and sung comic moments, coming forward more and more in the pathetic and romantic vignettes, the bombers vocals saved for the arias and duets at the climax and near the happy end. The force principals (including a charming Elisirina) as well as the “peasant girl” who is in some ways the leader of the village chorus) and 19 slot from the chorus, interact well, both vocally and theatrically, often overlapping and sometimes serving as counterpoint to each other. Throughout, Donato Cabrera, associate conductor with the San Francisco Opera and artistic director of the American Contemporary Music Ensemble, presides over the orchestra of 19 with grace and alacrity.
process as a tidal flow that during the morning brings a stream of people into the campus, and reverses itself as the day wears on.

With the basic premise that through-vehicle heights should be limited— with only emergency and delivery vehicles allowed onto the plaza and possibly some cars at night allowing for business access with valet parking— the questions became: “How do you keep this vitality?” and “How do you slow people down to make them aware of the context in which they live?”

Designs progressed from large-scale concepts of the Strawberry Creek watershed from the hills to the bay, gradually focusing on the more immediate scale of the creek itself, while embracing the nearby campus crescent and the Shattuck Avenue intersection and BART plaza across the street.

Hood experimented with a variety of design schemes, starting with 28, which were eventually pared down to 14, which were finally reduced to three designs he called hybrids.

Because of the large expenses involved, Hood said none of the schemes calls for a full-scale “daylighting” of Strawberry Creek, which would require channeling and restoration of the waterway.

One possibility involves creation of a five-story structure of hybrid steel and concrete that reduces the presence of water to a fountain. Elvey Judith of Friends of Strawberry Creek, who is working on preparing a public site to exhibit the models in order to encourage community input behind finalizing a design to take to the City Council.

Museum praised

In the wake of his designs for the museum, Winn said the designs’ aim is to “…on display at the plaza meeting, Saunders voiced high praise for his concept. “I believe we’ve hit upon something,” said Saunders. “It’s a wonderful concept.”

Boat said the real issue is whether or not the limits included in the DAPAC plan are derived from natural gas—and pesticides. By rapidly inflating costs of fertilizers—part by the demand for ethanol and in part by the economic, “how accurate will any feasibility study be at this time?” asked Jesse Arreguin, a DAPAC member. “This is just a way of sneaking in taller buildings against the wishes of the DAPAC majority.”

The central tension dominating DAPAC’s two-year effort to create the 85-foot limit necessitates a change to the more expensive metal frame construction, and only significantly higher structures would be likely to justify the actual construction costs, high-rise proponents have argued.

“If you only get five-story buildings as a result,”

DAPAC members Will Travis, Jeff, and Steve Weissman examine one of landscape architect Walter Hood’s proposals for Strawberry Creek Plaza, which would fill the block of Center Street between Shattuck Avenue and Oxford Street.

Inspired by the sight of floating columns of seaweed, and the resulting design has drawn high praise from others in the field.

But his proposal for Berkeley is certain to draw fire from architectural traditionalists, as well as from members of the preservation community who are saddened that the construction will result in the demolition of the university printing plant where the first copies of the United Nations Charter were printed in 1946.

The new building, budgeted at $145 million, will house the museum and film center now housed in a seismically unsafe concrete structure on Bancroft Way.

In a press release issued Wednesday, university officials said fundraising was in its early stages. No action was required of the regents this week, since they have already approved the project.

The board Committee on Grounds and Buildings also voted to approve two major projects on the Berkeley campus.

The board approved designs and the environmental impact report for Campbell Hall, authorizing construction of a replacement for the seismically unsafe building, and it voted to authorize a $90 million budget for an infill building that will be constructed in the courtyard of the university’s law school, until last year known as Boalt Hall.

Turf is a waste of money.

Continued from Page Six

City Council Sets Key Vote on Downtown Plan

continued from Page One

Turmoil is a waste of money.

The plan approved by DAPAC would keep most downtown buildings down 85 feet, while allowing four at 100 feet, four more at 120 and two high-rise hotels which could rise 100 feet higher. One of the hotels is already in the planning stages, to be stied at the northeast corner of the Shattuck Avenue/Center Street intersection.

The second would be an expansion of the existing Shattuck Hotel a block to the south.

Travis said the real issue is whether or not the limits included in the DAPAC plan would allow any actual construction to occur.

While the existing five-story limit allows for reasonable construction costs, adding another story or two to reach the 85-foot limit makes a change to the more expensive metal frame construction, and only significantly higher structures would be likely to justify the actual construction costs, high-rise proponents have argued.

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Turf is a waste of money.
The coming week is likely to present at least one situation per day that requires some quick and clever thinking on the part of those in charge -- and at some point everyone is likely to be in charge of something big or small. Those who are most interested in winning will recognize that it’s not power that makes the difference, but the wise use of that power. Indeed, there are times in which taking a back-seat is the best strategy. Rewards can be considerable.

There may be those who are running headlong into considerable danger -- whether they know it or not. All should use caution toward mid-week, when emotional situations are likely to arise. Rational problem-solving must not be compromised at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 5) -- Don’t fight the system; play by the rules -- but be creative in the way you use those rules to serve your immediate needs. (March 6-March 20) -- Your ability to work well with all kinds of people will serve you quite well all week long. Be creative.

ARIES (March 21-April 4) -- You may not be getting the news you expect from someone far from home. If necessary, break the silence yourself and get in touch personally. (April 5-April 19) -- You may have reason to congratulate yourself as the week comes to a close. Others are impressed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 5) -- Tensions between you and a co-worker are not going to go away until you’re willing to talk openly about what is right and what is wrong. (May 6-May 20) -- You’re having to work too hard to get the message across; insist that those in your charge listen up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 6) -- Take a close look at what is going on around you, and you’ll learn just exactly what you have to do to make things run more smoothly. (June 7-June 20) -- You may encounter someone more interested in exerting power than in working in tandem with you.

CANCER (June 21-July 7) -- You’ll be in charge of decision-making throughout much of the week, at home and at the workplace. Avoid anything that seems random in any way. (July 8-July 22) -- Someone you work with may be bent on breaking the rules. Don’t let him drag you down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 7) -- You may have to make some quick judgments about the people working with you and around you. Avoid being prejudicial, however. (Aug. 8-Aug. 22) -- Weigh the evidence all week long, and later on you’ll be able to make some informed and lasting decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) -- Let others go about their business without your input -- at least for a while. This way, you’ll learn when you must speak up. (Sept. 8-Sept. 22) -- The temptation to take over may seem irresistible, but resist it you must.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 7) -- You may not be looking forward to what is likely to be a busier week than usual, but you’ll have the chance to prove you can pull your weight. (Oct. 8-Oct. 22) -- Someone close to you may not respond well to your attempts at humor. Be more serious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 7) -- You must try to be at your most efficient throughout the week -- especially when it comes to your mind. There can be no doubt or confusion. (Nov. 8-Nov. 21) -- Self-confidence is the key — as always. You must behave as if you knew what you’re doing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 6) -- There are times when you all need to work in tandem, but keep your guard up. (Dec. 7-Dec. 21) -- It may take more work than expected to get someone under you to understand the rules.
**Sudoku Puzzle**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1-9 inclusively. The answer to the puzzle will be published in the next edition of the Daily Planet. At right is the solution to the previous puzzle.

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**Food for Bodies and Souls**

Continued from Page Nine

only lemon almond pound cake that would support a cascade of whipping cream and sliced strawberries. Everything was a gift of our local, thriving food community to help the needy, struggling to put their lives together, on the bottom rungs of the culinary ladder.

Matt was assisted in the preparation of his superb, four-course meal by St. Vincent de Paul’s chef, Michael Stamm, and a team from among the Kitchen of Champions’ first graduates. The wait staff was a cheerful and very efficient group of student volunteers from St. Mary’s College. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul community welcomed them, escorting us from the parking lot to the dining room, introducing us to others, seating us at our tables. In a neighborhood heavily associated with blécker stories, the intersection of San Pablo Avenue and 23rd Street, the message was one of generosity, civility and warmth. At the beginning of the evening, many of us were strangers. By the end, we felt like friends.

The goal of the Kitchen of Champions program, launched in the fall of 2007, is to give its participants a solid foundation for a career in food service. They acquire skills together with a sense of direction and self worth that will open doors to urgently needed employment. Several graduates of the first class are, for example, continuing their training with culinary courses at Laney College while others are working for Paula Le Duc Catering. If the green garlic and spring onion soup or the delicious ricotta gnocchi are fair illustrations, with guidance, confidence and effort they can meet the highest standards. Would that the Kitchen of Champions project could be an inspiration to the whole community as it grapples with other challenges in the cities of the East Bay.

**Wilma Chan to the Rescue**

Continued from Page Nine

her state Senate race against Hancock by incumbent state Sen. President Darrell Steinberg, incoming California Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, and past Senate presidential hopeful John Burton.

It is time for Berkeley to retire the underachieving Lori Hancock-Tom Bates machine. Over the past 25 years both of them have been elected mayor of Berkeley and both have been elected as Assembly members. They have failed to get much done. The polluted air in west Berkeley from Pacific Steel continues. The street crime in South Berkeley continues. Every developer, who wants to build a massive building, is given special treatment by the Hancock/Bates machine.

In return, Hancock and Bates get huge cash donations whenever they run for office from these very same developers. Do you remember the so-called good environmental development (the Bower Center) that was forced on Berkeley last year? Go take a walk or drive by the corner of Oxford and Kittredge/Addison Streets. Look up at the monstrosity that is being built there. This is not “green” development. The neighbors are calling it the “Green Monster.”

The Hancock-Bates machine gave that Berkeley city land to their friend. It was the last parking lot in the central business district. Their friend simply cut down an entire block of trees (how green is that?) They have also used so much of the Berkeley city budget to subsidize this friend’s own campaign donor’s project, that the Berkeley budget is now in the red. Hancock and Bates are now planning on asking you to pay more taxes just to pay for your fire, police, and other essential services. Why are the developers backing Hancock? Why are Chevron, Bayer, Union Pacific, P.G.& E., Chlorox, Pfizer, and Waste Management backing Hancock? It is time to break with corrupt politicians.

It is time to begin to elect clean, progressive candidates such as Wilma Chan. She is depending on citizens, like you, to come forward and help her win the June Democratic primary for state senator. Come join the campaign of “Berkeley neighborhoods and Neighbors” for Wilma Chan. You can see her more at her website, wilmachan.org.

**Welles’ Shakespeare Films**

Continued from Page Seventeen

The staging of a famous scene in Othello would provide the swirling steam of a Turkish bath was another inspired bit of improvisation, compensating for the fact that Welles’ supplier failed to deliver the costumes. Macbeth was essentially built from the start on a framework of improvisation amid low-budget circumstances, its design consisting of papier-mâché sets rising above a bare soundstage, its staging and photographic style organsizing the necessities of the quick three-camera shooting schedule.

Republic released the film in Europe to good reviews, but tested it only in select cities in America. They had already required Welles to cut about 30 minutes from it, but now they cut still more and insisted that as much of the dialogue as possible be re-recorded without the Scottish accents. Welles had sought to return the play to its roots by abandoning the hybrid English accent that had become standard for interpretations of Shakespeare with a Scottish burr.) When this highly compromised version was finally officially released in the States after a lengthy delay, critical reception was largely hostile. While some of the footage has been replaced since then, and the Scottish accent soundtrack restored, the film, like so many other Welles films, is still not quite the film he intended.

The film still draws mixed reviews. Joseph McBride, one of Welles’ most sympathetic biographers, bemoans the lack of tenacity of Welles in the title role, the weakness of Jeanette Nolan as Lady Macbeth, and what he considers the budget-hampered photographic style, in which the actors move more than the camera. Meanwhile, David Thomson, generally one of Welles’ more critical biographers, describes the acting as “heartfelt and liberated” and flatly states that “no film since Kane had had so profoundly organized or expressive a photographic style.” Welles’ films, like the man himself, retain the power to polarize his most ardent fans, even after 60 years.

**Working With Welles on ‘Macbeth’**

Continued from Page Seventeen

good actress, but not a good Lady Macbeth. Orson’s first choice was Vivien Leigh, but Laurence Olivier said, “No way you’re going to work with Orson Welles!” [Nolan] joined us at the table, bitching about her outfit, asking why she had to climb the stairs, mouthing her lines— at the same time stumbling—and can’t we get more light in here? And I’d just listened, at the ears, wondering if this is what every movie would be like.

The studio didn’t release Macbeth immediately. It would be the last Hollywood directorial credit for Welles for a decade, until Touch of Evil, his last studio film.

“They had him cut out quite a lot,” Connema said. “At the first preview, Yates had a fit and walked out. He immediately. It would be the last Holly-wood directorial credit for Welles for a decade, until Touch of Evil, his last studio film.

“They had him cut out quite a lot,” Connema said. “At the first preview, Yates had a fit and walked out. He wouldn’t release it. Orson said he’d buy it, but didn’t have the $700,000. Yates made him take out the Scottish accents, and had a hard time getting actors to remount it. Finally Orson didn’t want to either, and they had to tempt him to come back—with 50 grand. There’s a lot of narration where scenes are cut out. It only played the big cities, and the critics jumped all over it.”

Connema later saw Welles’ stage production of ‘Round the World in 80 Days, and joked with Welles another time.

“I remember him calling Republic a shit house, how he would’ve made a ‘touchstone’ if he’d been given a budg- et,” he said. “And I remember, too, dur- ing production, Roddy McDowell, who played Malcolm, had his camera with him, but no way, Orson told him not to bring it on set. He didn’t want photos of him directing in those cheap outfits to show up in one of Roddy’s gallery shows.”

**Darby Conley**

“Get Fuzzy” Darby Conley

Stefan Allan Cleveland

Stefan Allan Cleveland, of Berkeley, passed away on his 32nd birthday, March 4, 2008, after a long battle with synovial sarcoma. A viewing will be held on Friday, March 7, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Mandeville Funeral Home, 1331 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. A memorial celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, March 22, at 1:00 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar St. (at Bonita), in Berkeley.

Born in San Francisco, California, on March 14, 1976, Stefan graduated from Casa Grande High School in Petaluma, California, and attended the University of California at Santa Barbara. He was a successful Senior Financial Representative with Washington Mutual Bank.

Synovial sarcoma is a rare soft tissue cancer that occurs most often in young men, according to the National Cancer Institute. Since his diagnosis in 2005, Stefan lived life fully while dealing with this disease with incredible courage and strength.

Stefan brought much joy into the lives of those he knew and touched the lives of everyone he met. He is survived by his brother Dominique, mothers Wendy Alfsen and Marilyn Cleveland, father John Cleveland, sisters Stefani and Michelle, brother-in-law Robert Smith, nephew Ricardo Williams and nieces Michon Johnson, Stacey Stewart. He will be missed by his extended family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Sarcoma Foundation of America, https://www.curesarcoma.org/donate/index.cfm.
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So here I am, nearly forty years later. I haven’t been a concrete contractor all my life—yet. But I have been doing concrete work of all kinds here in the East Bay for quite some time. Whatever your project is a few squares feet of sidewalk, an entire foundation, an engineered retaining wall, or hillside drainage construction, you are invited to give me a call.

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Emeryville, El Cerrito Say No to Apple Moth Spray Plan

Berkeley Mayor Speaks Anti-War at Chamber Luncheon

Continued from Page One

tioned by Move America Forward, billed as Pelosi's house and at Congress. At the Berkeley, including in front of Nancy demonstrating in many venues other than recruiting our kids to go to this war." It's a laissez-faire capitalist," he said. "I know BP is controversial," he said. "We are keeping safety as our number one priority." He further says that the sources the CDFA plans to spray these counties again in June. Santa Cruz County has a lawsuit pending in an attempt to stop the spraying. The state says spraying is necessary to avoid restrictions being placed on California's produce and cut flower sales to other states and countries. Speaking to the Planet Wednesday, Emeryville Mayor Ken Bakwuk said he had received a call from the aeroplane spray plan when the Alameda County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to vote next week on the question of opposing the spray. He further expressed the view that the war itself is a bunch of right-wing shock jocks," he said. He further says that the sources the CDFA plans to spray these counties again in June.

Continued from Page One

hearted note: "Let me conclude with the topic of the day," he said, "the battle of Emeryville Mayor Kevin Hoffman issued a report contradicting a study by Daniel Herder, a UC Santa Cruz Adjunct Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and director of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, and Jeff Rosendale, horticultural consultant. The study concludes that spraying to eradicate the moth is ineffective and ill-advised. Moreover, in order to spray the pheromone, CheckMate is contained within microcapsules that crities say can be ingested and cause respiratory problems.

After CDFA sprayed CheckMate over Berkeley last week, more than 700 people reported adverse health impacts, such as headaches, nausea, and respiratory problems. The CheckMate spray could lead to a hefty raise for the manager. City employees, on the other hand, are not entitled to health care, but instead have to get him to agree to a lifetime contract." Any salary increase under consideration for a new contract for Kamlarz has been kept behind closed doors, with a council subcommittee reviewing the manager's job description. And, in a surprising move, councilors say a new contract could lead to a hefty raise for the manager. City employees, on the other hand, are not entitled to health care, but instead have to get him to agree to a lifetime contract.

The best-performing sector is hospitality— maintaining its strong performance. Revenue from hotel tax revenues, as well as increases in the numbers of visitors, is most likely to be the reason for the growth in the sector. Emeryville Mayor Ken Kamlarz said he plans to bring a resolution to the council calling for the spraying to stop. He further said that the spraying is unnecessary and that the moth can be controlled with natural predators. Emeryville Mayor Ken Kamlarz said he plans to bring a resolution to the council calling for the spraying to stop. He further said that the spraying is unnecessary and that the moth can be controlled with natural predators.

Mayor Speaks Against War at Chamber Luncheon

Continued from Page One

said. Asked if the Iraqis were going to attack the U.S., she said it isn't the Iraqi government that would attack the U.S., said it isn't the Iraqis that would attack the U.S., said it isn't the Iraqis that would attack the U.S., said it isn't the Iraqis that would attack the U.S. "It's a threat from the Middle East," she said. Asked why there were so many police— that the spraying was necessary to keep LBAM in check, and that there was no sign of it," the Herder-Rosendale study concluded. Hoffman, however, told the Planet in a phone interview Tuesday that New York City has not seen any reports of attempts to attack the LBAM and that they have become destructive to the environment.

In a response issued Thursday, however, Herder and Rosendale argue that they were not talking about importing non-native predators to California, but encouraging those native to the state. "Any attempt of creating a positive campaigns for control of LBAM are already present in California," Harder-Rosendale said. The question of whether there are natural predators in California that would eat LBAM is undetermined, Hoffman said, pointing to the gypsy moth, also a non-native species that was introduced to the United States. "We have more to do," he said. "We need to talk about what is great about this community," he said.

Bates placed the current demonstrations in a historical context. "First of all, this city has been on the front line all the way since I was in grammar school. People lay down in the streets, had that for housing?" he asked. "What a waste, we were lied to, to begin with.

Bates placed the current demonstrations in a historical context. "First of all, this city has been on the front line all the way since I was in grammar school. People lay down in the streets, had that for housing?" he asked. "What a waste, we were lied to, to begin with. Bates said he does not support young people going into the military and noted that those who signed up were "volunteers. The mayor spoke to the Jan. 29 council meeting in opposition to the spray. "It's not like Berkeley is unique in this regard," said Bates, a former Army captain.

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**Open Homes**

**ALBANY**
- $865,000 1241 Stannage Ave Sun 2-4:30
- $160,000 Red Oak Virginia Jones 280-2145

**BREAK**

**BERKELEY**
- $395,000 1381 College Ave #4 Red 2-4 Coldwell Gillan Leaper 280-2225
- $530,000 1414 Channing Way By Appt Prudential Berkeley Leonardo Tony 415 902-7785
- $595,000 Central Berkeley 3818A 1600 Dwight Way Sun 1-4 Coldwell Bnkr Nick Fox 520-8094
- $599,000 2224 Byron Sun 1-4 Prudential Berkeley Logene Butler

**CITY OF EL CERRITO**
- $679,000 1377 Carolta Ave 281A 56202 Urban Bay Coldwell Bnkr Nancy Kroll 486-1485
- $789,000 2839 Califonia St By Appt Coldwell Bnkr Logene Butler
- $930,000 4813A Rose St By Appt Urban Bay John Hooks 415 902-7785 www.UbayP.com

**CITY OF ANTIOCH**

**HAYWARD**
- $387,000 1275 colinda Ln #19 By Appt Urban Bay Michael Sands 816-9777 www.usa6.com

**HERCULES**
- $329,000 408 Forest Run By Appt Coldwell Bnkr Barb Allendon 486-1485
- $299,000 344 Crocket St By Appt Coldwell Bnkr Gregg Lustig 486-1485

**EL CERRITO**
- $279,000 709 Wedesley Ave 2 Sun 2-4 David & June Southworth 485-1495

**EL SOBRANTE**
- $220,000 2185 Santa Rita 3 By Appt Prudential Berkeley Ally Vaidekis

**EMERYVILLE**
- $550,000 5001 B Street 1-24 By Appt Urban Bay Michael Sands 816-9777 www.usa6.com

**EVERYTHING**
- $680,000 3830 Laguna Ave 3 bdrm, 1344 sq ft Yr: 1924 Prev: $450,000 in 2005
- $699,000 2341 W 18th Ave 2 bdrm, 912 sq ft Yr: 1941 Prev: $915,000 in 1999
- $773,000 4160 Webster St 3 bdrm, 1536 sq ft Yr: 1953 Prev: $930,000 in 2001
- $780,000 6400 Albany Blvd 3 bdrm, 2296 sq ft Yr: 1960 Prev: $930,000 in 2001
- $797,000 4398 E 45th St 4 bdrm, 2202 sq ft Yr: 1953 Prev: $1,000,000 in 2002
- $875,000 840 Gavilan Way 3 bdrm, 1776 sq ft Yr: 1956 Prev: $930,000 in 2001
- $1,005,000 26 Shawnee Ct 5 bdrm, 3114 sq ft Yr: 1965 Prev: $1,415,000 in 2004

**HAYWARD**
- $340,000 2212 El Dorato Ave 2 bdrm, 902 sq ft Yr: 1949 Prev: $1,000,000 in 2006

**HERCULES**
- $395,000 555 Jean St #15 By Appt Coldwell Bnkr 415 902-7785
- $719,000 3849A Woodside Way 2 Sun 2-4 Red Oak Julia Temple 759-3677
- $339,000 6007 San Pablo Ave Sun 2-4:30 Red Oak Tim Cassidy 697-8079
- $425,000 850 W Grand Ave #G6 By Appointment Urban Bay Lisa Martin 415 902-7785 www.UbayP.com
- $249,000 5174 Bricksdale Ave 2 bdrm, 1499 sq ft Yr: 1950 Prev: $810,000 in 2001

**KENSINGTON**
- $279,000 3507 Red Oak Ave sun 2-4 483-6999

**OAKLAND**
- $450,000 517 Alva St Sun 2-4:30 Prudential Berkeley Logene Butler

**OAKLAND-REDWOOD**
- $757,000 Redwood Hills Av 2 bdrm, 1239 sq ft Yr: 1954 Prev: $840,000 in 2002

**OAKLAND-REDWOOD**
- $599,000 1142 Fifth Ave #304 2 bdrm, 912 sq ft Yr: 1925 Prev: $77,000 in 1998

**RED OAK**
- $350,000 723 Kelvin Rd 3 bdrm, 1536 sq ft Yr: 1971 Prev: $345,000 in 2000

**RICHMOND**
- $949,000 4490 Broadway Way Sat 1-4-30 21st Century Real Realty Curt Stewart 845 2100 www.berkeley.com

**RODEO**
- $149,950 3818 2nd Ave By Appt Urban Bay Michael Sands 816-9777 www.usa6.com

**SANTO DOMINIC**
- $497,000 940 Beachpoint Way Sun 12:30-3:30

**SANTA CRUZ**
- $422,000 1743 Via Julia 3 bdrm, 1398 sq ft Yr: 1980 Prev: $370,000 in 2002

**SAN LEANDRO**
- $575,000 5417 Brookdale Ave Sun 2-4:30 555 Jean St #317 Sun 2-4:30

**SAN MATEO**
- $589,000 2986 Redwood Dr 2 bdrm, 902 sq ft Yr: 1949 Prev: $1,000,000 in 2006

**SUNSET**
- $242,000 2020 Keller Ave 3 bdrm, 1398 sq ft Yr: 1980 Prev: $370,000 in 2002
Allenoke Manor Was a Scene of Hospitality for 5 Decades

When Berkeley boosters publicized the city circa 1905, they invariably pointed to the 1700 block of LeRoy Avenue as their shining example. Situated one block to the north of the UC campus, the short stretch between Le Conte Avenue and Ridge Road boasted two of Berkeley’s most opulent and ballyhooed residences: the Volney D. Moody house, known as “Weltevreden,” and the Allen G. Freeman house, “Allenoke.” Each was designed by a fashionable architect (A.C. Schweinfurth and Ernest Coxhead, respectively) and was clad in clinker brick—a material popular with Arts and Crafts builders.

The two estates were separated by the north fork of Strawberry Creek, which could be traversed by two clinker-brick bridges.

Allenoke’s owner, Allen Gleason Freeman (1853-1930), was born on a farm in Flushing, Michigan, the third of seven children. As a teenager, he worked on the farm, as did his elder brothers. Eventually he migrated to Chicago and entered the firm of J.K. Armsby Co., wholesale commission merchants who would come to control the distribution of fresh and dried California fruit and Alaskan salmon. It was probably in Chicago that Freeman met his future wife, Jessie Katherine Marsh (1858-1940), who was listed in the 1880 U.S. census as a reporter living in Hyde Park, Cook County, IL. Their marriage took place on May 25, 1887.

The Freemans appeared in San Francisco the same year. By now, Allen was general manager of J.K. Armsby Co. In 1903, the company’s office would be located at 138 Market St. and include canned fruit, dried fruit & raisin, and bean departments. The canned fruit was marketed under the Argo, Ambassador, and Red Dart labels. Later, George Newell Armsby, the founder’s son, would engineer the merger that gave birth to the California Packing Corporation (Calpak), whose most famous brand was Del Monte.

Living in San Francisco and then in Oakland, the Freemans were active members of the Unitarian Church. In 1890, Mrs. Freeman was treasurer of the newly established Pacific Coast Woman’s Unitarian Conference. The founding of the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley in 1891 gave the couple a reason to move here.

In 1897, the congregation purchased land on the corner of Dana and Bancroft, and the following year, a shingled church designed by Schweinfurth was erected (it is now the University Dance Studio). The Freemans lived nearby, in a duplex at 2401 Telegraph Ave., which was then a highly desirable address. Duncan McDuffie would occupy the other flat in 1904, and Louis Titus lived a short block to the north. In 1902, Freeman and Titus were among the founding directors of the University Savings Bank of Berkeley.

As the character of Telegraph Avenue was being transformed from high-end residential to apartments and retail blocks, the well-to-do began to move out. But even before the first business block went up, Allen Freeman bought a large parcel on the corner of Ridge Road and Le Roy Avenue, in Daley’s Scenic Park. Volney Moody, another Unitarian, had already built a manse on the same block in 1896, and a year earlier, the Unitarian Maybeck heralded the birth of the local Arts and Crafts movement by designing a brown-shingle house for Charles Keeler two blocks to the east.

Schweinfurth, the architect of the Moody house and the First Unitarian Church, was already dead in 1903, when Freeman engaged the firm of Coxhead & Coxhead to design his house. Ernest Coxhead (1863-1933), like Maybeck and Schweinfurth an important early shaper of the First Bay Region Tradition, was English-born and -trained. In 1886, he and his older brother Almeric (1862-1928) established a practice in Los Angeles, moving to San Francisco four years later.

Ten years prior to the Freeman commission, Coxhead designed the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house (now Goldman School of Public Policy) a block away. It resembled a row of houses in an old English village. For Freeman, Coxhead created a large Colonial Revival house with oversized gambrel dormers on the north and south façades.

The carriage house at 2533 Ridge Road was designed by Clarence Tantau in 1919.
Maurer, and Thomas Rickard, president of Haskell; notable neighbors such as the professors Soule, Rising, and well as society of the college town,” among the audience included “Oakland’s elite as the most artistic residences in Berkeley.”

Mrs. Freeman died in January 1940, leaving an estate of close to $285,000. Wishing her house to go on being used “for the pleasure of many people,” she willed it to Robert Sibley, executive manager of the Continental Salt & Chemical Company, who took his mother-in-law numbered among its guests the wives of developer Frank C. Havens and UC president Benjamin Ide Wheeler.

Sibley built a Japanese-style pavilion, Dream for Berkeley, and was a founder of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA). Following Robert Sibley’s retirement, the couple built several rental income units on the Allenoke estate. In 1949, a two-story, four-unit, flat-roofed redwood & stucco apartment building was erected in front of the carriage house by architect-builder John F. Pruyn. The following year, two similar buildings were constructed along the north portion of the main property. In 1956, the southern part of the clinker brick wall was carved out of the brick wall in 1959. The same year, following Robert Sibley’s death, Carol Sibley converted the main house—made a duplex in 1952—into six units.

The 2533 Ridge Road carriage-house property was willed to Robert’s daughter Catherine, a protégé of Max Reinhardt and responsible for bringing his famous production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to Faculty Glade. In 1976, Mrs. Sibley built a Japanese-style pavilion, designed by Michael Severin, between the two apartment buildings north of the main house. There she lived until the end of her life.

In the late 1980s, Allenoke was acquired by Dr. Frederick M. “Ted” Binkley (1924–2006) and his wife Marian. An eminent vascular surgeon at UCSF, Binkley had played varsity football and basketball as a student at Cal and lived at the Phi Kappa Psi house, located a block away from Allenoke, at 2625 Hearst Avenue. Under the Binkley’s watch, Allenoke was restored to its original grandeur and single-family use. It was designated a City of Berkeley Landmark in November 1986.

Daniella Thompson publishes berkelyher-itageassociation.com for the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA).

Allenoke Manor Was a Scene of Hospitality for 5 Decades

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In many respects, Allenoke owes a debt to the Los Angeles house of business tycoon and art collector Edwin Tobias Earl, who in 1890 invented the refrigerated railroad car for shipping oranges to the East Coast. An earlier Coxhead design, the Earl house was built at 2425 Wildshire Blvd. in 1895-96 and demolished in 1957. Both houses featured steep roofs set with disproportionately large dormers (albeit in different styles); a projecting front porch festooned with arched openings on three sides and crowned with a neo-classical balustrade; a large, rectangular windowed bay projecting from the living room; and clinker brick exteriors. As in many other Coxhead residences, the rustic exterior belies a formal, rich interior.

Allenoke was completed in 1904 and thrown open that fall in a series of cello and piano recitals performed by Frederick Allenoke shortly after completion.

Robert’s second wife, Carol (1902–1986), was a well-known community figure in her time and energy to many civic groups, participating in the Berkeley Heritage Association (BAHA). She contributed to the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA).

The Freemans’ Chinese dining room with its gigantic beaten-brass mantel.

For the Totem Board of Trustees from 1903 to 1909; architect Clinton Day, and painter William Keith.

The childless Freemans entertained regularly and famously. A luncheon offered in March 1908 for Professor Jacques Loeb’s mother-in-law numbered among its guests the wives of developer Frank C. Havens and UC president Benjamin Ide Wheeler. “The menu was served in Mrs. Freeman’s Chinese dining room,” informed the San Francisco Call, adding, “The details of the affair were carried out in the Chinese fashion.”

A prominent clubwoman and patron of the arts, Katherine Freeman directed her charitable impulses toward the Berkeley Day Nursery and the Fabiola Hospital in Oakland. Her husband, meanwhile, went into business for himself, founding the Continental Salt & Chemical Company (later Alviso Salt Co.). He also became an importer and traveled regularly to Russia, Japan, Scandinavia, and Western Europe. Katherine accompanied him on some of these business trips.

In 1919, the Freemans erected a Georgian Revival carriage house across the street, at 2333 Ridge Road. Mirroring the materials of the main house (clinker brick walls, slate roof) and reviving the overused neo-classical elements so often used by Coxhead (dormers, porch pediment), this charming two-story structure was designed by Clarence A. Tantau (1884-1943), a Bay Area architect best known for his Spanish-style buildings. The carriage house sports two decorative chimneys, two hipped and one arched dormer gables, a fanciful glazed entrance porch on the second floor, and an enormous carriage lantern appended to the façade.

The Allenoke estate, intact to this day, boasts a formal garden designed in 1923 and featuring a pergola, two fountains, and flower beds bordered by boxwood hedges. The imposing entrance gate is constructed of the same clinker bricks used for building the house and the surrounding wall. Mrs. Freeman died in January 1940, leaving an estate of close to $285,000. Wishing her house to go on being used “for the pleasure of many people,” she willed it to Robert Sibley, executive manager of the Continental Salt & Chemical Company (later Alviso Salt Co.). He also became an importer and traveled regularly to Russia, Japan, Scandinavia, and Western Europe. Katherine accompanied him on some of these business trips.

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After making various bequests to relatives and friends (including a combined $54,000 to Sibley and his wife), Mrs. Freeman willed the residue of her estate to the University of California. However, when the State inheritance tax appraiser filed his report on Sept. 27, 1941, it transpired that bequests and taxes had reduced UC’s residue to a mere $1,181.

A notable conservationist and hiking enthusiast, Sibley (1881-1958) led the movement that resulted in the 1933 legislation establishing the East Bay Regional Park District on EBMUD surplus water-sheds. He served as director and president of the district from 1948 until his death in 1958. In Sibley’s honor, one of his favorite parks. Round Top, was renamed Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve.

During the 1940s, the Sibleys entertained countless students and alumni at Allenoke. In 1952, they published their recollections in the book University of California Pilgrimage: A Treasury of Traditions, Lore and Laughter, where they recount that “one time we had 400 people for breakfast.”

Robert’s second wife, Carol (1902-1986), was a well-known community figure in her own right. She served as president of the Berkeley School Board from 1961 to 1971 and presided over the successful racial integration of Berkeley’s public schools as well as surviving a recall attempt launched against her and other board members who had voted for the program (a consensual desegregation of a public school district in the United States). She contributed her time and energy to many civic groups, including the charitable organization A Dream for Berkeley, and was a founder of the Alameda County Coalition (ABC), which played a key role in Berkeley politics in the 1980s.

Following Robert Sibley’s retirement, the couple built several rental income units on the Allenoke estate. In 1949, a two-story, four-unit, flat-roofed redwood & stucco apartment building was erected in front of the carriage house by architect-builder John F. Pruyn. The following year, two similar buildings were constructed along the north portion of the main property. In 1956, the southern part of the clinker brick wall was carved out of the brick wall in 1959. The same year, following Robert Sibley’s death, Carol Sibley converted the main house—made a duplex in 1952—into six units.

The 2533 Ridge Road carriage-house property was willed to Robert’s daughter Catherine, a protégé of Max Reinhardt and responsible for bringing his famous production of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to Faculty Glade. In 1976, Mrs. Sibley built a Japanese-style pavilion, designed by Michael Severin, between the two apartment buildings north of the main house. There she lived until the end of her life.

In the late 1980s, Allenoke was acquired by Dr. Frederick M. “Ted” Binkley (1924–2006) and his wife Marian. An eminent vascular surgeon at UCSF, Binkley had played varsity football and basketball as a student at Cal and lived at the Phi Kappa Psi house, located a block away from Allenoke, at 2625 Hearst Avenue. Under the Binkley’s watch, Allenoke was restored to its original grandeur and single-family use. It was designated a City of Berkeley Landmark in November 1986.

Daniella Thompson publishes berkelyheritageassociation.com for the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA).
I do have a modest talent for growing things. The catch is that what grows isn’t always what I had in mind. I accidently raised a colony of mush-rooms in my former truck’s cab—**Peziza domiciliana**, the North American bath-room mushroom. Fungi are commonly uninvited garden (and bathroom) guests. Sometimes they portend disaster, like *armillaria* around an oak. Sometimes they’re a fairy ring gracing a lawn. Sometimes they’re a pure gift. When we first moved to this house, I was in raging despair over the sullen, poorly drained clay. After a day of wrestling with it (and losing) we found a morel. Morel. It was a shit; we haven’t seen a morel since, even after soggy winters, but it was a brief consolation.

I am also learning to eat the weeds. I suspect this is a hardwired survival trait. Before I’d made my mind up about what to put in one bare spot, a sprawly octopus of purslane—**verdolaga**—had homesteaded it. Guess what? It tastes a bit like sorrel, and it’s crunchy. I’m not stalking the wild asparagus here (though I have seen it in ditches along the Delta) but knowing I can eat some invaders makes gardening somehow less of a war.

I’d learned about purslane just in time. I still slap myself now for passing up that nasty-looking corn my friend Ray grew in his yard years ago. It had some ominous gray swollen kernels… Yes, huitlacoche. I’m fairly certain that the hulk of a fur-nace in the crawlspace was once a coal burning device” I said and that it had been converted from this to natural gas at some point, perhaps 90 years ago. But that wasn’t my real concern. A few piece of coal in the crawlspace aren’t particularly danger-ous although the converted furnace was long overdue for replacement.

My concern was related but only as a first cousin removed once or twice. Earlier in the day, I had noticed a pipe running up the side of the house that seemed to stop, think a while, go back down an inch or two and just give up. Oh, I said to myself. Could there be an oil tank on the property. In the first two decades of the twentieth century, oil tanks were being used a fair amount in our area. Fuel oil, still common-ly used in the East Coast was used to run central heating systems. Some of these sys-tems heated water and some heated air and used ducting. While virtually none of these exist in working form today (I’ve never seen one ‘round these parts) the tanks and piping may still be lurking beneath your soil.

As regulations regarding safe ground water have developed over the past few decades, this issue has brought with it some financial hazards. As a homeowner, you may be held accountable, should a tank of this kind be found and known to leak. Discovery of a tank requires that it be examined to determine if it is leaking. If a tank is found to be leaking, it will have to be removed along with enough soil to assure that the ground water is safe.

That was the issue. Water is an increasingly precious resource and local harvesting of water may be on its way back as the cost of water and water delivery increases in coming decades.

Tim Hallen of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Tank Removal helped me get some of my facts straight. While most tanks are not leaking, it is almost impossible to tell if they have, until a tank has been removed. Further, all tanks will eventually leak, so keeping one is a bad idea.

Once a tank is removed (this may be in the ballpark of ten grand) the soil can then be tested and removed to some extent if needed. Removal of soil is generally in the three to six thousand dollar range including backfilling with clean soil.

**Everyone has a modest talent for growing things.**

**The Accidental Gardener**

By RON SULLIVAN

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