Residents Say No To Bus-Only Lanes

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Judging by comments at a Wednesday night hearing, Berkeley residents like faster bus service but hate the notion of losing car lanes to bus busses. As the AC Transit’s Jim Cunradi briefed a joint session of the city’s Planning and Transportation commissions on his agency’s Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal, while some speakers told the commissioners to urge the City Council to move ahead and another said BRT was fine so long as none of the controversial Van Hool buses were involved, 25 speakers said no to bus-only lanes, with many urging a no-build vote and a system redesign.

Dean Metzger said opposition to the ACT Transit plan was strong in Berkeley neighborhood, with polls by the Council of Neighborhood Associations and his own Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association signaling strongly against any propos-
al to take existing traffic lanes and convert them to bus-only use.

Last week, Metzger said, “I ini-
tiated a measure to be on the November ballot” that would bar taking traffic lanes for BRT buses. BRT would link Berkeley and San Leandro with a 17-mile serv-
ice that would flow in a pair of dedicated one-way bus-only lanes, except in the commercial heart of San Leandro itself, where the City Council has blocked the decision. Metzger said the key to keeping the buses in regular traffic lanes.

The transit company is still in discussions with Oakland City

Aquatic Park Section Off Limits After Sewage Spill

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

A sewage spill discovered at the Bayer Healthcare’s Berkeley campus on Monday prompted the city’s Division of Environmental Health to prohibit human contact with water in a section of Berkeley’s Aquatic Park.

The city’s Environmental Health Manager, Manuel Ramirez, described the spill, caused by a city sewer pipe blockage as small. City officials told the Planet on Thursday that they had not yet been able to assess the size of the spill.

The environmental health depart-
ment collected water samples from Aquatic Park Tuesday morning to test for fecal coliform bacteria, which are present in human feces, and carry pathogens that could infect humans.

Bayer officials informed the city’s environmental health department about a sewer release at the campus south of Building 14, at 800 Dwight Way, at 12:40 p.m. Monday, Ramirez said, after which a team went out to the site to meet with Bayer representa-
tives to try to eliminate the over-
flow and contain the spill.

“Some of the effluent reached a storm drain that feeds a basin that enters a wetland area of Aquatic Park,” Ramirez said. “We put up signs between Bancroft Way and Carleton Street to warn people to avoid contact with water. At this point the total spill amount or that of the effluent that actually entered the wetland area has not been reported to the city. We are working to get a report.”

Bayer said the size of the spill was about 2,000 gallons. An AC Transit Environmental Health Manager told the Planet the spill was not reported to the city. It was not clear if the city was notified of the spill.

The city’s Environmental Health Department, along with the city’s Environmental Health Department, worked together to contain the spill.

The Bayer campus Community Relations Manager Tina Ostran-
der said the size of the spill was “fairly significant.”

“It’s hard to give an estimate because it was flowing,” she said. “But the only thing that goes into this pipe from Bayer is human waste and clean water.”

Ostrander said that a couple of Bayer employees had discovered the spill and notified the campus emergency response team.

“Our environmental manager contacted the city,” she said. “The pipe is under Bayer property but it’s a city pipe so both the teams worked together to contain the spill.”

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

As pro-Tibet groups and sup-
porters of the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in San Francisco Wednesday, Tibetans in Berkeley kept their businesses closed to join in a movement very close to their hearts.

A handwritten message greet-
ing customers at Little Tibet, a convenience.

“Tibetans in America are calling on all of us to boycott the Olympic Games in Beijing because China is occupying our homeland,” said Khangsar, who spent 19 years in the Himalayas to escape from the Chinese occupation, but there has been no freedom from serfdom to justify their occupation, but there has been no economic or social progress since then. After 50 years, the condition of Tibet has not changed. It is politically unstable. Tibetans are still suffering economically. There is no religious freedom, and our culture has been destroyed. I’ve wanted for 30 or 40 years for China to stand up.”

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By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Solemn firefighters from Berkeley, Livermore and Pleasanton will march through the streets of Berkeley Saturday morning, honoring one of their own, Jay Walter Randall.

The 54-year-old, 15-year B.F.D. veteran died April 6, losing his battle with cancer, a disease that strikes firefighters so frequently that such cases are ruled as a matter of law to be occupational illnesses, said Deputy Fire Chief Gil Dong.

The Saturday procession begins at 10 a.m. at Station 5 at Derby Street and Shattuck Avenue. From there, firefighters will march to Allston Way, then west to Martin Luther King Jr. Way, and then north to Addison Street and St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 1640 Addison, where the memorial service will begin at 11 a.m.

Born in Westwood in suburban Los Angeles, Walter lost both his parents in childhood. After attending the University of Southern California and UC Irvine, Walter joined the army, serving as a member of the elite Special Forces Pathfinders, where he was also trained as a medic.

After two tours of duty in Vietnam, he trained as a paramedic at UCLA Medical Center and began ambulance work in 1977, where he was teamed with Gerri Schmidt on her first assignment as a paramedic. They would marry four years later.

He is survived by his spouse, a daughter, Roslyn, and a granddaughter, Addison.

“We’ll miss him a lot,” said Dong. “It’s a tragic time for the Berkeley Fire Department family. We’re all going through a healing process.”

“Firefighter Processional Honors Fallen Colleague”

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

By a 5-4 vote, Berkeley planning commissioners voted Tuesday night to endorse the recommendations of the Joint Density Bonus Subcommittee over a more developer-friendly staff report.

Both documents will go to the council, which will choose what—if any—measures to enact prior to the June 3 election, when passage of Proposition 98 could impose potentially harsh penalties on new land regulations by local and state government.

Commissioners acted to give the City Council a chance to enact a law that would give city planning staff and the Zoning Adjustments Board more control over the size and massing of large mixed-use housing projects, so that it could be in place in case the statewide ballot initiative passes.

The measure would contain a built-in sunset clause, so the measure would expire if the ballot measure fails. If 98 passes, the commission and council could subsequently modify the law. Critics of Proposition 98 contend that it would effectively forbid any kind of downzoning, ending the ability of city, county and state government to limit such construction projects.

In a similar action on virtually identical alternatives prior to the November 2006 election when Proposition 90, a similar statewide initiative, threatened local land use controls, the council backed the staff version, which was characterized by some commissioners who voted with Tuesday’s majority as being more favorable to developers.

It was Planning Commissioner Susan Wengraf who swung the vote in favor of the proposals by the subcommittee she had chaired. Gene Porschman had made the

Friday, April 11, 6pm

UC Berkeley Campus – Wheeler Hall 213

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AE911Truth.org

Planning Commission Endorses Tighter Density-Bonus Controls

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

For a guide to all the events at Saturday’s Cal Day, including a lecture on the Hayward Fault by Roland Birnbaum, a researcher at the Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, see the Planet’s website: www.berkeleydailyplanet.com
Oakland School Board Chooses Analyst for Interim Superintendent

By J. DOUGLAS
ALLEY-TAYLOR

The newly empowered school board of the Oakland Unified School District moved swiftly to exercise authority granted by California State Superintendent of Education Jack O’Connell. On Wednesday, the board hired青蛙

But even more surprising than the swift- ness of the OUSD Board’s actions—com- ing a day after the memorandum of under- standing (MOU) signing ceremony at Grass Valley Elementary—was the board’s choice: Roberta Mayor, who, as chief man- agement analyst for the Fiscal Crisis and Management Team (FCMAT), has been overseeing OUSD’s finances during the five years of state control.

Since a massive budget shortfall led to

Oakland Homeowner Files Lawsuit against Measure Y

By J. DOUGLAS
ALLEY-TAYLOR

An Oakland education and labor attor- ney has filed a California Superior Court lawsuit against the City of Oakland and its recent decision to spend $7.7 million of Measure Y money on police recruitment, asking that the court immediately halt the collection of Measure Y taxes until the original community policing mandates of the bond measure are met.

Marleen L. Sacks, an Oakland home- owner and a senior counsel with the Pleasanton Office of Atkinson, Andelson, Loyd, Ruud & Romo law firm, filed the lawsuit on Tuesday in her own behalf.

A spokesperson for the mayor’s office said they had no comment, and a spokesperson for the Oakland City Attor- ney’s office said the office had not yet seen a copy of the lawsuit as of Wednesday and could not comment on it.

The first hearing on the lawsuit is sched- uled for May 29 in Alameda County Supe-

Continued on Page Twenty-Six
FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Celebrating Carson Czar and the Farmworkers’ Movement: Carson Czar’s “Tribal Heritage” at 10 p.m. at the Civic Center. Sponsored by the Berkeley Civil Rights Forum.

Tibetan Buddhism with Erin Richell at 6:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave.

“On Sacred Grounds: Religion and the Question of Territory in Iraq” with Prof. Ron希望通过the Bible” at 7 p.m. at Congregation Beth El, 2001 Center St., Berkeley. Prices are $25 for adults and $6 for children 5-12.

A documen-...
Warm Pool Users Lobby Board of Education

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

Warm-water pool users lobbied the Berkeley Board of Education to save the Berkeley High School Old Gym and warm-water pool right before the board discussed a report recommending the site’s adaptive reuse at the school board meeting Wednesday.

The report outlined the outcome of a charrette held last month to settle a lawsuit against the Berkeley Unified School District. Board members refrained from taking any action and asked the district’s Director of Facilities Lew Jones to provide them with a more comprehensive cost analysis of the gym’s adaptive reuse.

Friends Protecting Berkeley’s Resources sued the school district last year for what it called an inadequate environmental impact report on the demolition of the gymnasium and warm-water pool.

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.”

The district’s South of Bancroft Master Plan calls for the demolition of the nationally landmarked Old Gym to make room for a stadium and 15 new classrooms, with the option of relocating the warm-water pool to a site on Milvia Street.

Friends Protecting Berkeley’s Resources said it was possible to preserve the Old Gym and that the EIR “did not justify its findings.”

“As saying that it was possible to preserve the Old Gym and that the EIR ‘did not justify its findings’ seems to me, you got a big mansion, a big pool right before the board discussed a lawsuit on the moth and the April 1 ‘Die Rag’: ‘Hey there, governor, it’s time to share the money.’ And Willard Middle School math teachers sang ‘Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Get Fired Rag’ to the tune of Country Joe McDonald’s ‘Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag’: ‘Hey there, governor, it seems to me, you got a big mansion, a big pool right before the board discussed a lawsuit on the moth and the April 1 ‘Die Rag.’”

Friends Protecting Berkeley’s Resources also proposed adapting the gym to meet the needs as identified in the master plan.

“We should build our future through adaptability,” said Bowman, stressing that state, federal and private funds were available to rehabilitate the gym, now that it’s a national landmark.

The report includes three different concepts, with Bowman’s team proposing classrooms on the second floor and adding a basement to a piece of the Old Gym.

Bowman quoted architect Todd Jerse, “—represented projects such as the Albany Pool and the Richmond Plunge— as saying that it was possible to preserve the pool while accommodating the school’s progress.

The second concept—put forward by a group of people who want to maintain a league-sized softball field at the high school—would demolish a part of the building to accommodate the field and convert the north pool into a warm-water pool.

The third plan calls for the demolition of the Donahoe Gym, constructing classrooms on the first floor and converting the north pool into the warm-water pool.

Bill Savidge, a charrette participant, said that the charrette had not met the goals of the charette had not met the goals of the charette held last month to settle a lawsuit against the Berkeley Unified School District.

Continued on Page Twenty-One

BUSD Rally Against State Budget Cuts

Continued on Page Twenty-Six

Student Intent to Register Due May 1

May 1 is the last day that you can tell a college that you will be attending their college. You also are supposed to send in a deposit for your chosen college by that date.

“I think that I’m going to University of Oregon,” said BHS senior Calvin Young, “It’s a really great psychology program and a lot of people from BHS are going there. I’ve visited the campus. Send- ing my SIR in is going to be a breeze. I’ve already made my decision.”

While Young knows where he wants to go, many do not and are having trouble deciding where they should register.

So, parents, make sure your kids don’t fall into the trap of senioritis, and help guide them so that they make a good decision come May 1. If you have any questions about the college admissions process for your student at Berkeley High School, contact Ilenne Abrams at 644-6804 or Angela Price at 644-4576.
House planned the entire operation. The can’t spit without getting an okay.

every unit of the Iraq Army that the latter transition Teams are so deeply embedded in Baghdad. Lastly, the U.S. military’s Transportation 

trouble, U.S. aircraft bombed and strafed craft for the operation.”

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spokesman, Col. Bill Buckner, announced be planned without a range of military 

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10 Iraqis want the occupation to end. 

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Maliki to keep U.S. troops in Iraq indefi 

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powerful, trade unions, want Iraq to keep 

two: Muqtada’s followers, along with most of the Sunnis and Iraq’s illegal, but still 

of the Sunnis and Iraq’s illegal, are fully in control of the ports and 

unprovoked attack on a relatively peaceful city with Cheney’s visit [and] to the fact that oil and dock workers are all illegal, are fully in control of the ports and 

of the south, as is the country’s only port, which staunchly oppose the privatization of the industry. An oil union statement said the Basra attack was aimed at “the planned corporate takeover of the port [of Basra] … in order to facilitate the activities of the international oil companies.”

According to Leila Fadel of the McClatchy newspaper chain, when Vice President Dick Cheney visited Iraq March 17-18, he “strong armed” Iraq’s Presiden 

try Council into passing a provincial elec 

law. The law sets up an October elec 

which the various provinces will use to choose their provincial councils and ultimately a unified country or splinter into separate provinces.

Second, the Iraqi government had also sealed an agreement with Muqtada to keep U.S. troops in Iraq indefin 

in spite of the fact that seven out of 10 Iraqis want the occupation to end.

If the U.S. and Maliki and Hakim are to pull off dismembering Iraq and privatizing the oil, they need to win the election in the south. About 20 percent of the Middle East’s oil reserves are in Basra Province.

But the Mahdi Army has far more sup 

port among the Shiia masses than either the Dawa Party or the ISCI. Muqtada and his family have long been associated with the poorest of the Shiia—those who constitute the overwhelming bulk of the sect—while Maliki and Hakim have always been close to the Shia merchant class. The latter has the money, the former has the numbers.

Which is why Maliki launched the attack on Basra.

“Separatist Shiites want to make sure the nationalist Shiites won’t win the elec 

tion by killing them,” said a prominent member of the American Friends Service Committee. If Maliki can destroy the Mahdi Army or drive it out of Basra, the October elections will go to the Dawa Party and the ISI 

insuring that Iraq’s huge oil reserves would be turned over to the big oil cartels.

A subsidiary target of the Basra attack was the oil and dock workers unions, which staunchly oppose the privatization of the industry. An oil union statement said the Basra attack was aimed at “the planned corporate takeover of the port [of Basra] … in order to facilitate the activities of the international oil companies.”

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The Economist 

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The Edge Page 6 Weekend Edition, April 11-14, 2008

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Khalil Yassin Alward, the former governor of 

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Article Information:

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The Story Behind the Battle for Basra

By Conn Hallinan

Dispatches From The Edge

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Article Information:
Culture Wars in Oakland

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

Chamber of Commerce was circulating a petition calling, in part, for more bilingual officers. "The merchants want the police to speak the language of the community," one of the merchants said, explaining his concerns to the mayor, the chief of police, and other city officials present.

"I hope that the patronage who are assigned to Chinatown understand our culture," the merchant said. "We do a few things here that are illegal. We double-park, and we jaywalk. If the patronage come down hard on that, they will just drive away, and it will hurt business in this area. Ask them to put out notices in the [Chinese language] papers, and give us warning firsts. Tell them to light up."

In his remarks, translated into Cantonese as he went along, Dellums agreed that "there ought to be more Chinese-speaking officers."

There is every reason to see why this would be a good policy.

Last year, in an editorial in San Jose's large Vietnamese-American community following the shooting death of 25-year-old Cau Thi Bich Tran, a mother of two, by San Jose Police, after the police say the woman reported that Tran had locked herself out of her home by a dao bao, which they interpreted as a terrorist act.

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"I grew up on Ray Charles' music. He was one of my favorite artists. I would describe it in many ways, but never "wild." It is an expression of Ray's love of family and the focus of my parents' African-American family family, my mother's fried chicken and potato salad. No safety of being around known and friendly surroundings. When Charles' "What'd I Say" came out, it was a hit in the Black community. Charles' "What'd I Say" came out, it was a hit in the Black community.

"Between Billy Joel and me, therefore, there is a distinct difference in the meaning of the Black Experience."

I have heard enough and seen enough and lived long enough to have become quite comfortable in my own culture, and sometimes it is difficult to be reminded of a mother and a father who have a different perspective of life and people long since passed.

But there are areas where the opinions of the majority culture have a profound effect on the way people perceive the African-American community. The way people perceive the African-American community is how many, it is difficult to say—involved problems—one of the East Bay Dragons officers being talking about a "blame" gathering of young African-American officers on a national basketball court."

"Absolutely. The same is true for large segments of the African-American community."

Young people were just standing along the storefront, talking, in their own neighborhood, and nobody seemed to be causing trouble; the Tac Squad appeared to be going on the assumption that any "unauthorized" gathering of young African-Americans in that section of Oakland constituted a problem."

In a recent meeting, a burly Tac Squad officer gave the officer the order to disperse, but none of the young people moved. While the squad was preparing to make a sweep of the block—which might, indeed, have caused problems—"one of the East Bay Dragons officers walked down the street, quietly telling the gatherings, "All right, y'all. The fair's over. It's time to go.""

While Oakland's Chinatown, with Chinatown's researchers trying to get a community assessment, is another matter; the

The success of hip hop on a national level (remember when the Black- 

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While Oakland's Chinatown, with Chinatown's researchers trying to get a community assessment, is another matter; the
LARRY BENSKY was kind enough to forward to us an article by Dan Eggen, from Sunday's Washington Post. The headline is “Permissible Assaults Cited in Graphic Detail.”

He suggested that we should reprint the whole piece, which we’re not legally entitled to do. But we can direct your attention to the story on the paper’s web site. It’s an excellent parsing of a terrifying document, a memo to the general-counsel governing interrogation by members of the U.S. military forces which was written by John C. Yoo, then a U.S. Justice Department lawyer, and now a faculty member at the local law school formerly known as Boalt Hall, which is part of the University of California.

His memo functions as a justification for a variety of forms of physical torture. The article reports that the memo claims that “federal laws prohibiting assault, maiming and other crimes by military interrogators are trumped by the president’s ultimate authority as commander in chief.”

We are certainly aware that a number of people have raised objections to Yoo’s reasoning. We’ve encountered several law students who seem to have ethics and integrity.

But forget about moral turpitude. Some of these people should inquire delicately but forcefully why their school has a faculty member whose work is notoriously shady.

Of course, Yoo’s not the only UC faculty member who does some mediocre work from time to time. This could be a slippery slope— it might make some of his colleagues very nervous.

Even though the subject matter is deadly serious, some observers have half-jokingly suggested taking direct action to shame Yoo. Two respectable Berkeley matrons were overheard fantasizing about donning burqas and smacking him with pies in front of his classes.

On Brad DeLong’s blog, one Kate G. says that it’s not a question of academic freedom exactly, and proposes a more Draconian alternative: “Yoo’s briefs on the topic as of this writing, from posters to Brad DeLong’s site: ‘I should write to the President.’ Well, yes, that’s obvious, even to non-lawyers.

We asked Larry, KPFA’s longtime national reporter, to write a commentary for the Planet on the topic. “What is there to say? It speaks for itself, alas,” he replies.

That’s true, as far as it goes, and everyone should certainly read the Post piece or even, if you have the stomach for it, the whole memo.

Brad DeLong, ace blogger and Econ Prof, is one of the few UC faculty members whose moral compass seems to be in perfect alignment. He’s been blogging and discussing the matter since March— the memo is about a month old.

It was taken as the law of the land for eight months, until it was overruled by Jack Goldsmith, Yoo’s boss at the Office of Legal Counsel, who was later quoted as saying some of his memo’s “deeply flawed: sloppily reasoned, overbroad, and inacuasint in aserting extinction of the legal order in the hands of the President.” Well, yes, that’s obvious, even to non-lawyers.

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opposed to BRT” does not fairly describe my position. We citizens have been offered a bad choice: accept BRT in roughly its present form or oppose BRT. Given these lousy choices, I choose the latter.

In my view AC transit is doing its job responsibly. Our city is failing to spend any money to author its own BRT alternatives has brought us to this point of no good choices.

Three years ago when the lines where still yellow on Telegraph and College Avenue would be converted to BRT, the AC transit and the Downtown Berkeley Association tried to get city staff to engage in a hands-off approach to BRT. AC transit could get no ears at the city. “Everyone is over-worked. There’s a hiring freeze,” was the excuse heard from city staff.

Regardless of the fact that this plan will impose dramatic changes on the street infrastructure that will persist for 25 years, no one in the city had time for it. The city did not see it as sufficiently important to hire its own draftsmen and veteran designer to work with AC and with its citi-
zens for BRT.

The city said DAPAC will figure this out, even though the design of alterna-
tions requires skilled, citizen volunteers. The city said the “transit zone urban design plan” will figure this out, though drafting such alterna-
tions was far beyond the scope of that competent but singly-funded study commissioned by Berkeley but NOT funded by Berkeley. The city refused to spend a dime or an hour on this when it was in a state begging for collaborative

The city now says, “make AC transit pay for additional design in Berkeley.” He who pays the piper calls the tune!

Bruce Wicinas is a Berkeley citizen.

By BRUCE WICINAS

BRT Poor Choices: The Fault of the City of Berkeley

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the one thing that was clear at last night’s joint Planning and Transportation Commission workshop was that not much is really known about AC Transit’s BRT plan. The commission worked so hard that no may

prise many people after the multitude of public hearings and thousands of pages of material written by AC Transit, BRT sup-
porters and those who support better public transit but are opposed to dedicating public roadways to buses that will come once every 10 minutes.

Where do we start first to try to get solid information about the effects of Bus Rapid Transit on Berkeley?

One place could be the Draft Environ-
mental Impact Statement/Report pub-
lished last May but proponents of BRT, and AC Transit, say it’s just the draft and should not be used in discussions. From try-
ning to understand BRT’s impact, it is the only source of information and facts about the project.

What’s AC Transit doing say automobile congestion: BRT could mean longer drive times on Telegraph Ave. BRT requires a transway for safe and efficient operations. This means that the length of travel time on the route is expected to increase due to congestion and delay when a traffic lane in each direction is converted to BRT.

How bad will that congestion be? The draft is clear that it’s not just Telegraph Ave. BRT will worsen significant number of auto trips will divert onto College Avenue and Shattuck Avenue. AC Transit doesn’t use the term gridlock, but they do say that unsatisfactory conditions will occur at a number of local intersec-
tions.

Will there be other impacts to the sur-
rounding neighborhoods due to the added congestion on the major roadways? Neigh-
borhoods adjacent to Telegraph Ave. will be affected. The transit agency’s traffic analysis shows that they did not model many of the smaller resi-
dential streets. AC Transit’s traffic analysis shows that the shortest time path across Berkeley is at odds with what those of us who live and, yes, drive everyday know.

We are currently in the process of defin-
ing the Locally Preferred Alternative route. That’s what the joint Planning and Transportation Commission workshop was all about. What they got instead was an out-
pouring of community sentiment believing that we just don’t know enough yet to decide if we want dedicated lanes for buses, let alone where we might want them.

So where does that leave us when look-

ing for real answers to the question of traf-
ffic impacts to Berkeley? From trying to under-
standing BRT’s impact, it is the only source of information and facts about the project.

AC Transit and the City of Berkeley should implement a “real world test” of the lane closures on Telegraph to get some real data about the impacts on congestion, travel time, cut-through traffic and many other variables about which we currently can only conjecture. Here are questions that should be examined:

1. Will the reduction in parking greatly impact the businesses on Telegraph Ave., as owners fear?
2. Will the imposition of metered parking in residential areas further restrict resi-
dents’ ability to find parking near their homes?
3. Will the interdiction of bike lanes in the vicinity of the BRT stations put cyclists at greater risk?

AC Transit has produced their proposal for the lane configuration and traffic flow on Telegraph Ave, with BRT in place. We should use their plan as the basis for any test of the impacts of BRT. The test should cover the area from Dwight Way to the Berkeley/Oakland border and should examine:

• Blocking off lanes of traffic with cones or other temporary but effective barriers to

• The restrictions on turns both onto and off of Telegraph Ave.
• The reduction of parking around sta-
tions and left turns.
• Appropriate signage to make sure motorists, pedestrians and cyclists under-
stand the reconfigured roadway.

The following should be measured before and during the test:

• Traffic volume on Telegraph Ave. and on each of the cross-streets at which traffic will be allowed to cross Telegraph Ave.
• Traffic volume where neighborhood streets exit onto adjacent arterials such as College, Shattuck, Ashby and Alcatraz and at major intersections on those arterials.

• Congestion delay at each intersection

Continued on Page Eighteen

By VINCENT CASALAINA

Bus Rapid Transit Needs More Study

Oakland, Call Off the Blight Police

By JAMES SAYRE

Using its absurd draconian police powers, under City Ordinances, the City of Oakland has fined a woman resident of Oakland the amount of $913.00 for leaving her garbage can on the street curb for a couple of days.

This morning’s Contra Costa Times reported an outrageous story of bullying by the City of Oakland, “Woman fined $913 for leaving garbage can on street curb”. It seems that this woman, who had been away from home for three days, had left her garbage can on the curb to be picked up and some anonymous busybody neighbor had reported it to the Oakland Police Department. (Back in the good old days, the garbage collectors used to walk up to each home, press on a cover lever, lift out a small cylindrical garbage can from its hole and carry it back to the garbage truck. They then returned the can to its hole and closed the cover….)

Oakland needs to completely scrap its over-reaching heavy-handed Blight laws and start over with some open public hear-

ings on this subject and related subjects: flowers, grasses, shrubs, trees, vines and perennials grown on private property.

Oakland residents have had their private properties raided and devastated by over-
zealous and untrained and ignorant con-
tractors in past years.

Blight exists in the mind of the beholder.

One person’s “Blight” may be another per-
son’s picturesque or natural-looking. We need to end this present abusive system of secret spying and reporting by neighbors on other neighbors to the Blight Police bureau-
cracy, which then does selective enforce-
much of their overly broad and unconstitu-
tionally vague rules. Selective enforcement is both arbitrary and discriminatory.

This Oakland system is an echo of the former communist East German govern-
ment system of spying on neighbor on neigh-

or and then reporting their observations to the secret police. The Sixth Amendment to our Constitution, requires that we be allowed to publicly confront our accusers in open hearings in court. We are tired of the spying and secrecy of the Bush regime in Washington, D.C. We don’t need to have these same governmental bullying tactics applied to us in Oakland. We should not have to live in fear of our neighbors who may not care for the cut of our shrubs to be able to secretly and anonymously report us to the Oakland Blight Police for persecu-

By JAMES SAYRE

Continued on Page Eighteen

James K. Sayre is an Oakland resident.
As the average American to name a famous war-tax resister and most folks would probably cite Henry David Thoreau for standing up against taxes during the Mexican-American War but, 120 years later, Baez, Chomsky and Steinem—and more than 500,000 fellow Americans—openly defied paying taxes to support the war in Vietnam.

Following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Baez, Chomsky and Steinem issued a new Appeal to Conscience proclaiming that citizens had a “moral duty” to oppose Bush’s aggression by “refusing to pay taxes used to finance unjust wars.” Today, as the Iraq occupation enters its sixth year, war-tax resistance is gaining new converts.

In 2004, Julia Butterfly Hill refused to pay her Federal taxes to protest spending on the Iraq war. She declared her federal taxes to fund conservation and social justice programs. As Hill explained, “Every time I pass a newspaper stand and see a headline about the war, it’s good to know I’m contributing to a different headline.”

Pulitzer-prize winning New York Times reporter Chris Hedges recently declared in his recently published book, “War Is a Force That Give Us Meaning,” that while the U.S. attacks Iran, and prompting others to make similar pledges.

In drug and other chemical manufacturing. With increasing temperatures and humidity likely to increase termites and molds that can ruin the home on which we need to shift away from wood as global warming’s effects expand.

Where Do We Go Now?

By JAMES SINGMASTER III

The Governor’s proposed budget would have a devastating impact on California’s public education system, already noted for being 47th in the nation for per pupil spending. This budget does not consider the educational needs of our children, but rather protects the interests of big business. Proposition 98, which the Governor will have to set aside in order to slash $2.9 billion per year, has been signed by two-thirds of the legislature to set aside Proposition 98. The current budget proposes to cut $4.4 billion from public education. Such a cut would come at a time when school districts’ budgets are already lean, (the BUSD cut $3.1 million over three years). In Berkeley, only, layoffs notices have gone out to 55 district employees. If enacted, the budget reductions of $3.7 million the BUSD would have to suffer under the Governor’s recommendation.

The state PTA is mobilizing a statewide rally in Sacramento on April 24 to “Flunk the Budget”. We hope to see five to ten buses of Berkeley parents and community members. Funds are needed to help pay for tickets to the PTA Council will need to rent for this event. We would like to keep down the cost for those who are already lean, (the BUSD cut $13 million over three years). In Berkeley, alone, layoffs notices have gone out to 55 district employees. If enacted, the budget reductions of $3.7 million the BUSD would have to suffer under the Governor’s recommendation.

The Democratic Majority of the State Legislature are committed to doing whatever is necessary to fund this budget and not cut a dime from public education, but they need to have our support, both locally and whenever we can travel to Sacramento to do so. A state budget process that looks at cuts alone is not a real solution, and blindly slashing 10% shows absolutely no effort on the Governor’s part. For the richest state in the nation to become the last in the nation for per pupil spending would be criminal. Prior to Proposition 13, Californians proudly stood at 5th in the nation.

To make a donation for this effort, you can give checks to: Rebecca Abravanel, Treasurer, PTA Council, 716 Alameda, Berkeley, 94707. Of course, it would be great if you could join us in Sacramento. Please contact Berkeley PTA Council president Cathryn Bruno—contact Cathryn Bruno at: jefcat1991@sbcglobal.net or the PTA at the school nearest you.

Thanks for your support!

The Berkeley PTA Council

By Gar Smith

The Noble American Tradition of Tax Resistance

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The Noble American Traditi
Continued from Page Eight

from its inception Israel has been engaged in a war for survival among hostile govern-
ments that have included at one time or another Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Ara-
bia, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria and Iran. Israel occupies the west bank as a result of its vic-
tory in the six-day war, a war it did not seek, at the end of which it declared itself in posi-
tion in the Sinai peninsula. Per-
haps Harris’ selective view of history does not permit him to recall that Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in exchange for a peace treaty that has more or less held up. Unfortunately, other govern-
ments in the region continue to maintain objectives, by whatever means neces-
sary, of the complete destruction of Israel. Or, as it is called by the current gang that passes for a government in the west bank, “the struggle.”

Evelyn Giardina
Waltham Creek

BUS RAPID TRANSIT
Editors, Daily Planet.
Looking at the packet for this week’s joint Planning-Transportation Commis-
sion meeting about Bus Rapid Transit, I see eight letters from the public support-
ing BRT and a grand total of three letters opposing BRT.
A number of opponents have claimed that there is widespread opposition to BRT in Berkeley. The tiny number of opposing letters in the packet of this major com-
mission workshop shows that the opposi-
tion is just inches deep.
There are a few people who are fierce-
ly opposed to BRT, but the great majori-
ty of the criticism that we hear is just a negative and kvenhating that is the inevitable response to any proposed change in Berkeley, however small or however beneficial the change may be.

Charles Siegel

RAPID BUS PLUS
Editors, Daily Planet.
Berkeley’s April 9 Planning and Trans-
portation Commission hearing seemed like a turning point in discussion of AC Transit’s renamed Bus “Rapid” Transit (BRT) proposal.
Speakers opposed bus-only lanes by about a 2-1 ratio. And several BRT oppo-

nents spoke on behalf of whole neigh-
borhood associations or merchants’ groups.

LAWLESS IN SLO
Editors, Daily Planet.

Continued on Page Eighteen

Bloomfield, NJ

ROBERT LOE
Grass Valley

POSTER CHIEF
Editors, Daily Planet.
Many people want to demonstrate against China at the Olympic Torch run in SF because of its policies re: Tibet and Darfur. But who are we to protest? Here are some posters I would love to see at the demonstrations:
China! Stage your own ‘free’ con-
trolled elections on Tibet with proven
voting machines of Diebold, ES&S, Sequoia and Hart. Remember, bad exit polls have been the hallmark of election fraud in OTHER countries.
China! Create your own 9/11 psy-ops event. We don’t need the US to 
do it for you! You can bring democracy to any oil country you choose!”
China! Troubling control your peo-
ple in Darfur. For your own 9/11 event as we did! Then you can start your own phony ‘war on terror’ and use it to suppress dis-
sent in YOUR country.
China! Problems with Tibet? Have you tried the humane American approach of waterboarding and rendi-
tions!”
Free Tibet! Free Darfur! Free U.S. from your own 9/11 event as we did! Then you can start your own phony ‘war on terror’ and use it to suppress dis-
sent in YOUR country.
China! America! Impeach Bush and Cheney!”

Richard Tamm

FREE TIBET, FREE CHINA
Editors, Daily Planet.
I stood on the Embarcadero for four hours, immersed in a crowd of Chinese Americans waving flags of China as we waited for the Olympic torch. My “Free and Independent Tibet” sign jostled with their “We are the true China” and “Free Guam-
tanamo! Free our good young boys from learning how to torture. Free our pres!”

“FREE! America! Impeach Bush and Cheney!”

Richard Tamm

ODE TO FIDEL
Editors, Daily Planet.
The Communist system works where?
Fidel Castro’s an old billionaire.
Is his wealth where his mouth is?
Just ninety miles south is
too close to our coast for his heir.

O.V. Michaelen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FRUSTRATED TITLE
Editors, Daily Planet.

Pardon me all to hell. I was naively of

Continued...
A Green Village School Developed by Indians and Americans

By KRISHNA P. BHATTACHARJEE

“Don’t let school interrupt your education,” said Mark Twain. He spent most of his youth on steamboats going up and down the Mississippi River, earning a living. He lost his father when he was young and could not complete his school education. Later he went on to write many books, such as The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

At the other end of the world, in India, the Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore expressed similar sentiments when he established the institution “Shantiniketan” (“meaning an abode of peace”). He too did not complete his formal school education.

He has stated, “My object in starting the institution was to give the children full freedom of joy, of life and of communion with nature. I myself had suffered when young under the impediments that were inflict-ed on most boys while they attended school, and I have had to go through the machine of education, which crushes the joy or freedom of life for which the children have insatiable thirst. And my object was to give freedom and joy to children (of men).”

Freedom of expression, living without fear, joy of learning and reaching out to marginalized families have been the four principles on which the Center for Human Settlements (CHS)-Habitat developed its philosophy towards life and learning. The executive director of CHS-Habitat, Pro-fessor K. P. Bhattacharjee (the author of this article), was exposed to India’s Freedom Movement, having witnessed the freedom struggle and non-violence movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi and Nobel laureate Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore’s cry for freedom and democracy scripted in his poems.

During his years on the UC Berkeley campus he observed the famous Freespeech Movement and the brutal force unleashed on students by the state to curb freedom of expression.

The founders of CHS-Habitat longed for the type of democracy about which the Indian Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore wrote in his book Gitanjali: “where the mind is without fear and the head is held high ...” Similar ideas on freedom have been written and propagated by many authors including the famous Irish author Iris Murdoch.

The directors of CHS-Habitat initiated action research on socio-economic issues and development to provide economic freedom to the economically weaker section of the population.

In order to extend the output of its action research to the field, CHS assisted marginalized families to enhance their income, assisted families to build afford-able houses, provided free books to school-going children of marginalized families and provided health care facilities. Households were guided to improve their living envi-ronment. Such inputs from CHS has provided health care facilities. Households were guided to improve their living envi-ronment. Such inputs from CHS has

In order to exchange ideas with other institutions and individuals on improving the quality of life of the marginalized fami-lies, CHS-Habitat organized international conferences by yearly during last 20 years. Many participants from abroad and local areas contributed toward implementing income-generation projects and social housing for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society.

Among them was Dr. Jon D. Raggett, a senior structural design engineer based in California. He is also the director of the Development Engineering Research Institute (an organization supporting develop-ment of school projects in different devel-oping countries around the world.)

During Dr. Raggett’s participation at the International Conference on Human Set-tlements in Calcutta in 1997-98, he exchanged his ideas on the need for develop-ment of schools in villages in India with Professor Bhattacharjee and assured him that some joint venture project would be taken up in the future.

In the meantime, CHS-Habitat prepared the ground for implementing its ideas developed from his action research toward total development of children in villages by making available to them shelter, educa-tion, employment opportunities and basic necessities. The word SEBA in Sanskrit means “service.” CHS would ensure that democracy, freedom of joy of learning and rule of law would be the four cornerstones of his insti-tution. His concept of development has been appreciated by many including Dr. Ramachandran, former Executive Director of UNCHS, Nairobi, and an advi-sor to CHS-Habitat.

Many NGOs located in Indian villages came forward to implement the SEBA project. In order to get the local NGOs participation and involvement in the proj-ect, CHS-Habitat insisted that the local NGO is required to participate in the development of the project. In case they cannot devote time for the development and maintenance of the project, then they are required to provide land or donations.

Action research

The implementation of the present SEBA project (to develop an institution) has been initiated in a village named Chamtagarah within the district of Banku-ra (which is connected to Calcutta by motor-able road and rail track) in the state of West Bengal, India. A local welfare soci-ety named ‘Samity’ under Shantiniketan Samity, serving the Adibasi (indigenous people) of the children of the villages, having realized the need for education for the children, invited CHS-Habitat to imple-ment the SEBA project and offered its land on which the project would be develop-ed.

Prior to preparation of the project report and the physical layout design of the build-ing complex and infrastructure, a number of visits to the site were made by the CHS team to inspect the land, to learn about the local conditions and the need for a primary and secondary school in the area.

Bankura is one of the most backward dis-tricts in West Bengal, India. It is about 250 kilometers from Calcutta. The village of Chamtagarah is within the Block Chhatura (under Saldiha Gram Panchayat, the local administration). Hot and dry climate prevails for nine months of the year and the temperature is around 35 to 42 degrees C. There is little rain from July to September, and soil is unfertile and red. There is very little agricultural activity, and vast land lies barren. There are a few stone chip crushing mills and small business units. Small indus-tries are now coming up in the area.

Consequently, residents have little income, 75 percent of the people belong under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and are Below the Poverty Line (BPL) as defined by the government of India, except a few traders and businessmen. About 40 percent of the population of the village belong to Schedule Tribe and Castes (indigenous people) of the locality.

According to the information collected by the CHS field team, those children who are not admitted to schools from the 12 vil-lages in Saldiha Gram Panchayat under Chhatura Block within the district Bankura are likely to attend the new school. The local population of the block is about 10,000, and out of this about 40 percent (say 4,000) belong to the Schedule Tribe (indigenous people) and 25 percent of the remaining population belong to other backward classes.

Among the 2,000 school-going children...
When doing home improvement, save as much hardware and material as you can and keep it somewhat organized. What can’t be stored can go to Urban Ore or another local reuse center. There’s nothing so satisfying as finding the part or piece that you need without making a trek to the hardware store, saving material and time, and of course gas and packaging also.

Courtesy of: Scott Donahue - RS Donahue Architects

To participate on this page contact Jason@ 510 841-5600 ex 120
A Green School

Proposal for a green school and vocational training center

During the field survey in the village on the type of school that should be developed, parents of children requested that the school have classes in nursery and primary sections be introduced first. They also requested introduction of kindergarten or Montessori systems and that teaching of English conversation to students. Though such demands from the parents were not expected, considering that it is a village school, it appeared that a segment of the villagers were well educated with degrees and even graduate qualifications. They well knew that for higher education and employment, English is essential.

Accordingly, a proposal has been made by CHS-Habitat for development and construction of sustainable institution consisting of nursery and primary sections at the first stage. However, the CHS committee decided to develop a long-range master plan for this project to include a secondary section, hostel accommodation for the children who come from different villages and districts, as well as a vocational training center for children who would not pursue higher education, so they may be gainfully employed. It was also decided that a green and sustainable complex should be developed, so that no greenhouse gas is contributed by this project, so the project has been planned to include electric lights from solar panels installed on the roof of the building and rainwater harvesting. Accordingly, a master plan has been prepared and a view of the scheme can be seen on the website www.chshabitatcal.org.

Fortunately, these facilities for the complex met the approval of the well-known Indian author and social worker Maheswara Debi, who is also involved in social service work for the indigenous people in the district of Bolpur, which is located adjacent to the district of Bankura in West Bengal. The scheme for the school complex also met the approval of our American friend Dr. Jon D. Raggett, whose charitable organization, Development Engineering Research Institute (DERI), had encouraged CHS to proceed with the project. He discussed the project with the board of directors of DERI who unanimously approved the project and agreed to provide a grant for the classrooms and essential infrastructure for the school.

Project implementation and its operation

CHS has designed the building complex to meet the needs of the local hot and dry climate. All external brick walls were made of thick cavity walls to reduce transmission of external heat within the interior, so classrooms remain cool. Even during summer months, mechanical fans are not required. In addition, adequate cross windows and ventilators were provided for cross-circulation of air and to keep the interior cool. Use of exposed bricks has enabled the building to merge with the local vernacular architectural style. The main roof is flat and made of concrete so that rainwater can be collected and then drained by down pipes to discharge into the existing well at the edge of the compound. Water is scarce in the locality, so rainwater harvesting is essential. However, for drinking water a submersible pump is to be installed at a local water tank far away.

Social impact of SEBA Mission project:

The new school complex is set in a green environment merged with the local surrounding and was immediately accepted by the people of the village. Word spread and people from distant places came just to see the school complex made in local vernacular architectural style using local bricks and construction techniques. Many families visit the school every afternoon and rest in its garden. Garden seats were built within the compound for visitors. Children play within the garden, adding life to the entire area.

There is an urgent need to build residential accommodation for teachers and dormitories for students, install pumps for drinking water and build other infrastructures. CHS desires donors and philanthropic organizations to come forward and complete this project where education is the light to guide the villagers to a better living environment free from hunger and disease.

For information: chskpbcal@gmail.com or see www.chshabitatcal.org

Krishna P. Bhattacharjee, professor, architect and planner, executive director of the Center for Human Settlements International (CHS-Habitat) is a graduate of UC Berkeley.
‘Firebird’ at The Crucible
By KEN BULLOCK

The crowd was streaming through the flaming metal portals of The Crucible’s big industrial complex on Oakland’s 7th Street well before curtain time for the “fire ballet” production of Stravinsky’s Firebird.

Like a sideshow, there were “fire arts” demos going on inside. Crucible artists and volunteers pulling molten glass from a blindingly hot oven and shaping it, or showing some how to pound out a burning ingot on an anvil, or just displaying works from one of the center’s many workshops.

Once the big audience was seated in rows of chairs on the floor in front of the stage and on the bleachers just behind them, the taped Middle Eastern-flavored dance music went off and an emcee welcomed everyone, touching on the working day, educational and community features of the foundry-like place that was presenting a 1910 Ballet Russe classic, “an incendiary flame,” with proceeds to benefit their education fund.

“Like a sideshow, there were “fire arts” demos going on inside. Crucible artists and volunteers pulling molten glass from a blindingly hot oven and shaping it, or showing someone how to pound out a burning ingot on an anvil, or just displaying works from one of the center’s many workshops.”

Meehan called the cast of five “spectacular, all incredible vocalists” with each actor (except Simon) playing two roles. Active Arts is committed to producing shows based on children’s literature, “to enchant children and their families, encourage them to use their imaginations, and entertain not only the child, but the mother, aunt and older sister or brother sitting next to them,” Meehan said. “Hopefully, we’re educating the next generation of theatergoers.”

She added how much the actors respond to performing for younger audiences, meeting them after the show “so the experience doesn’t end with the end of the show and the children can see that the actors are real people, not just images on a screen. They let you know immediately when they’re having a good time.”

‘The Emperor’s New Clothes’ for Youngsters
By KEN BULLOCK

The Emperor’s New Clothes, a family show by that great musical team Ahrens & Flaherty (Seussical, Ragtime), will be staged by Active Arts for Young Audiences, opening this weekend at the Julia Morgan Center on College Avenue.

The old story presented with a twist: the emperor’s 14-year-old boy (though played by a professional adult actor, part of Active Arts’ credo), Marcus the Third, who’s approaching his imperial inauguration nervously. A smart kid who likes to read, Marcus doesn’t think he has what it takes to be an emperor—not if an emperor’s a big, tough guy wielding a sword.

“Marcus begins to think, perhaps it’s the clothes which make the emperor,” said Nina Meehan, executive director of Active Arts and co-producer of this show.

Meehan described the musical, which she said was in a new version being premiered in California by Active Arts, with the shows at the Julia Morgan, directed by Mike Kasin. With sophisticated music and humor to engage the older kids and the adults, Meehan said it welcomes younger children to the world of theater, with interactive moments (“the audience helps make a parade”), vibrantly colorful costumes and a medieval fairy-tale inspiration reminding audiences the story came from books—a pop-up storybook effect “that pops out to the audience.”

Plus, Meehan said, “there’s a song every three minutes that tells the story, drives the plot”; in a show that, with no intermission, runs about an hour and 20 minutes.

“My favorite moment in the play,” said Meehan, “is a really fun song, a duet between the emperor and the scullery maid. They’ve become friends, though they’re not supposed to, and realize they can play together, use their imaginations to create stories. So they play a guessing game. They come from different worlds, but find common ground.”

Meehan continued: “What’s neat for me as a producer to see is the scullery maid being played by Jayne Deely, a recent Fordham graduate and newcomer to the Bay Area, while Emperor Marcus is played by Brendan Simon, who performed in our first show ever, at the Bay Area Discovery Museum in 2004, and has always done our choreography.”

Active Arts is committed to producing shows based on children’s literature, “to enchant children and their families, encourage them to use their imaginations, and entertain not only the child, but the mother, aunt and older sister or brother sitting next to them,” Meehan said. “Hopefully, we’re educating the next generation of theatergoers.”

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THE THEATER

Firebird
The Crucible, 1260 7th St, Oakland Wed-Sat, April 16-19, 8:30 p.m. Tickets $55 444-0919 www.thecrucible.org firebird gala Friday, April 18 Reception 6:30 p.m. featuring wines, fiery hors d’oeuvres, exclusive performances Tickets: $150 www.thecrucible.org www.activearts.org the crucible Firebird Gala

Tickets: $150

hors d’oeuvres, exclusive performances
Reception 6:30 p.m. featuring wines, fiery hors d’oeuvres, exclusive performances

Wednesday, April 16, 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: $14 for children, $18 for adults.

www.activearts.org

www.activearts.org

THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET
Page 15
Weekend Edition, April 11-14, 2008
Tickets are $18.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
EXHIBITIONS

Darfur Humanitarian Aid "Tents of hope" outdoor photography exhibition and Darfur Humanitarian Aid from 1 to 5 p.m. at Art Museum Berkeley, 1101. 1302 Oxford St. 833-1777.

"The Nature of LA" Paintings by Samantha Fieds, Portia Hertz, and Malvina Yi at Traverck Contemporary, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Through May 1. 895 1320.

Angler of Beauty" at 10 a.m. at Cody's Books, 2201 Shattuck Ave. 559-9500.

Gardener of Beauty" at 10 a.m. at Cody's Books, 2201 Shattuck Ave. 559-9500.

"The Magnificent Orion" with Jared Redmond, piano, at 8 p.m. in the Pacific Film Archive. Tickets are $15-$20. no alcohol, no drumming. Space is $25.52.030.

Oakland Ballet "The Secret Garden" at 8 p.m. at Oakland Paramount Theater. Tickets are $15-$50. 465-2000. www.oaklandballet.com

East Bay Children's Theatre "The Emperor's New Clothes" at 10 a.m. at at West Side Library, 647-1790.

Oakland Youth Chorus and "All About Oak" ensemble from Berkeley Jazzschool at 8 p.m. in the Pacific Film Archive. Tickets are $15-$10. no alcohol, no drumming. Space is $25.52.030.

Kensington Symphony with Geoffrey Gallogly, conductor, Keleigh Walsh, piano, at 8 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashby Ave. at Cerrito. Suggested donation $15-$15, children free. 522.2829.

"Rock the Planet" A benefit for Give Some, Snowmen, Lebo, The Jolly Roadrunners, LeRoy Thomas & the Zydeco Roadrunners and "Schindler's Houses" at 8 p.m. at Pegasus Books Downtown. 2349 Shattuck Ave. 626-6566. www.richmondlibrary.org

"Schindler's Houses" at 7 p.m. in the Pacific Film Archive. Tickets are $15-$10. no alcohol, no drumming. Space is $25.52.030.

"Kickgrass" at 8 p.m. at Cassidy Hall. Suggested donation $10-$15. 548-1761.
Sekimachi and Stocksdale at the Berkeley Art Center

By ZELDA BRONSTEIN

The Berkeley Art Center’s current show, “Loom & Lathe: The Art of Kay Sekimachi and Bob Stocksdale,” is full of revelations. Sekimachi, a weaver and fiber artist, and Stocksdale, a wood turner, are both internationally renowned but largely unrecognized in Berkeley, despite having lived and worked here for most of their lives. Sekimachi is in her early 80s; Stocksdale died in 2003 at the age of 89.

“Loom & Lathe” is a handsomely staged survey of their work. It offers Berkeleyans a rare opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary achievements of these two local treasures. Be prepared to gasp in delight as you encounter Sekimachi’s hangings, scrolls, boxes, bowls and baskets, and Stocksdale’s bowls. These elegant and ingenious objects exploit and reveal the qualities of their materials in surprising ways. Many embody what curator Robbin Henderson calls “the lyrical dialog between the artists,” who were wed in the early ’70s, and whose creations often took the same form, rendered in different materials.

At the same time, Sekimachi and Stocksdale worked in—and reworked—traditions peculiar to their respective crafts. As Suzanne Baizerman writes in the show’s beautifully produced catalogue, Sekimachi drew on both the Japanese culture of her family and the mainstream culture of the United States.

Albert LeCoff’s essay, also in the catalogue, tells how Stocksdale was distinguished among modern wood turners by his “passion for the wood itself: finding it”—especially exotic wood—“working it, and showing it.” Sekimachi’s and Stocksdale’s lives and works also bear witness to the creativity of the contemporary Berkeley crafts community. Famous for its progressive politics, Berkeley is also nationally known for its fiber artists, ceramicists and woodworkers. As founding members of the Art Co-op, now ACCI gallery, which grew out of the mid-century progressive cooperative movement, Sekimachi and Stocksdale contributed to this town’s fertile melding of politics and art. Having nurtured that melding for over forty years with integrity, skill and economy, the Berkeley Art Center is the perfect venue for their creations.

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Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page Eleven

Suspicous Looks
Editors, Daily Planet:
If Senator Obama were to visit North Berkeley unannounced, sans retinae and in street clothes, I'm sure he would enjoy the same suspicious, scrutinizing glowers that I have since purchasing property here a few years back.

Zac Morrison

Skate Park
Editors, Daily Planet:
So, the five-year-old city skateboard park “that was to cost $200,000” and ended up costing four times that amount is splitting at the seams.

(Judith Scherr, Berkeley Daily Planet, April 8–10)

Reportedly, cracking was noticed at least a year ago. That suggests that the skateboard park was showing problems a mere three years after being constructed.

Now, in addition to the original cost of $800,000, plus on-going weekly repairs, and a scheduled $40,000 “facelift” planned for the end of the month, Deputy City Manager Lisa Caronna contends that “it is not out of line to ask voters to rebuild the park”… to the tune of another $2.2 million via a bond issue on the November ballot.

Ms. Caronna justifies this expense as, “This is our reality. It meets the needs of small and big kids and adults. We can’t walk away from something so popular.” And she disingenuously asks, “If there were errors, should the city not be able to have a skate park?”

Just a moment! Whether or not a skate park is popular, Berkeley taxpayers are not NO WAY responsible for the faulty design, materials and/or construction that appear to be causing the cracking. Ms. Caronna and the city need to drop any idea of socking it to Berkeley taxpayers and hold accountable the original engineers and contractors. It is their responsibility–not the taxpayers—to make the necessary repairs or re-construct to acceptable standards.

Barbara Witte

North Shattuck Plaza
Editors, Daily Planet:
Is anyone besides me upset about the proposed North Shattuck Plaza plan as described recently in the Planet?

Less parking, which would hurt business in the area like Park Books. A lovely place for people to sit, like anybody has time or inclination besides the old timers who now confront to sit before the French Laundry.

The planners want to goad us to walk. Have they seen some of us using canes these days? I’m counting the days until I get mine.

Block off parts of Vine? Ugh. It’s a beautiful architect’s dream, just like some of Adolf Speer’s and Adolf Hitler’s for a coming paradise that somehow didn’t come off.

If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. This is one of the few areas of Berkeley now working.

Avis Worthington

PayPal Bots?
Editors, Daily Planet:
I am wondering whether PayPal is managed by humans or whether the robots have taken over. I am being held hostage from using PayPal’s much vaunted online payment system which is preventing me to pay for pre-booked holiday accommodation in Europe. I am compelled to use PayPal because it is the only system of payment used by the accommodation agency. PayPal’s payment website every time pops up an error message that claims that my password or email address is incorrect.

I am totally unable to get any human to respond to my request that I be contacted to sort out the problem. My guess is that there are many exasperated persons among your readers because of PayPal’s automated responses, promising that someone will respond, but no one ever does. How can an organization like PayPal that has a major impact on people’s ability to do online transactions refuse to communicate in person with the public? If there is a human among the robots at PayPal, please, please contact me!

Rembrandt Klopper

Zapata Women
Editors, Daily Planet:
People from Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Rosa and Chico, California attended the Comandanta Ramona Gathering of Zapastista Women with the Women of the World in the Lacandón Jungle of Chiapas, Mexico during the last week of December 2007. A report on this amazing experience will be presented to residents of the Strawberry Creek Lodge on April 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Some 3,000 people from around the world attended this gathering dedicated exclusively to the Zapastista women and their experience and struggle for equality within their own revolutionary organization, the Zapatista National Liberation Army. They discussed their history as serfs on plantations and their coming to voice in women’s collectives after the 1994 Zapastista Uprising. They also explained their roles in the civilian self-governing (autonomous) structures.

The Zapatistas rose up in arms on January 1, 1994, the day that NAFTA went into effect, and declared a truce 3 days later. That truce has held for 14 years as the movement declared itself nonviolent, while maintaining its weapons only for self defense. Since the 1994 Uprising, the Zapastistas became known all over the world for their analysis of neoliberalism (corporate globalization) and for their construction of a civilian alternative to big government and political parties.

We invite you to join us on Thursday, April 17 at Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison Street, Berkeley, 7:30 p.m. for this report and slide show.

Mary Ann Tenuto Sánchez

Peace within
Editors, Daily Planet:
We need peace within to enable peace in the wider world. All our efforts to bring forced friendliness and democracy will not have a positive outcome. I fear how we have lost international standing because of our style of dealings with other nations. I don’t believe in forced understanding. I like to talk things over with the people involved and wait patiently for good results to emerge. War creates fear and leads inevitably to retaliation. We should devote our attention instead to learning about other people’s thought process. Let us also practice staying centered in our own lives and resolving our personal problems with patience. The influence of our peaceful way of resolving small conflicts is bound to ripple out to the wider human community.

Romilia Khanna

Tax Resistance
Continued from Page Ten

Will award $10,000 to dozens of peace organizations in a Tax Day event set for 6 p.m. at the Co-Housing coop at 2220 Sacramento.

Tax resisters can face civil penalties on their returns. (pluscompound interest at a rate of around 10 percent) But One Million Taxpayers for Peace advises that the actual risk is "negligible", and resisters need not fear arrest or the loss of "one's car, home or other assets." Criminal prosecution is possible but uncommon.

Such penalties would become a thing of the past under the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Act (H.R. 1921), which allows citizens to assign the "defense" portion of their taxes to religious work and social services. The bill, introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), now has 30 co-sponsors.

If neither Congress nor the United Nations can prevent Washington from launching preemptive wars of occupation, a National Tax Strike may be the last, best hope for reining in this rogue administration.

For more information, contact the War Resisters League (www.WarResisters. org), National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (www.wartaxboycott.org) and the Northern California War Tax Resistance (www.ncwtr.org).

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Berkeley Residents Say No to Bus Only Lanes

Continued from Page One

two bus-only lanes down the center of Telegraph Avenue with stations in the mid-
districts on Saturdays and Sundays. "It also needs to serve to promote public safety."
In the model offered by BRT – which co-exists with AC Transit – efficiency works with city government—the route would turn west off Telegraph, looping through downtown Berkeley, through a two lane route along Bancroft Way, then north on Oxford Street and down University Avenue to Shattuck Avenue, and looping back to Telegraph either via two-way dual BRT lanes on Bancroft of a one-lane eastbound link on Durant Avenue. Keeping both lanes on Bancroft would result in a loss of more than 60 parking spaces around the campus, compared to the sepa-

Wednesday night’s meeting saw the forging of some unusual alliances, with individuals and organizations often opposed on other development finding common ground in opposition to BRT-
only lanes.

Sierra Club Northern Alameda Group volunteer chair Kent Lewandowski offered support for BRT, which he said would be especially needed given the significant growth in enrollment and jobs projected in UC Berkeley’s Long Range Development Plan through 2020.

Jeff Rumar of the Transportation and Land Use Commission said the infrastructure needed to “move as soon as possible, because each additional delay is putting tons more car-

Continued from Page One

Southside Plan Resurfaces after Years in Urban Limbo

properties along the western edge of Ful-
ton Way. The plan, which had originally been completed in 2001 and revised two years later, was soon put on hold when it was discovered that the transportation element that would have included a detailed study of planned conversion of parking lots to two-way traffic, said Jesse Arregui, aide to City Coun-

The city’s Public Works Department is investigating the layout of the blocked pipe that has been siting at the intersection of Bancroft and Telegraph since for more than a year, said Lawrence Ramirez, director of Public Works. The department has received a number of complaints about sewage flow from the pipe, which may have been cleaned out recently, Ramirez said.

Water samples will be sent to a public lab to test for possible human sewage, and the results will be available by today (Friday) in the afternoon, Ramirez said. We are monitoring to make sure that the bacteria levels are below what could affect humans," he said. "We are advising people to stay out of the water and will keep the signs up until the testing is com-

Two former city councilmembers came to speak out, one, Miriam Hawley, to sup-
port BRT, and the other, former Mayor Shirley Dean, to oppose BRT, which she said would provide "a great deal of open space" and "be an answer to the problem of spreading."

"I think it should be available to every-
one who needs it," Worthington said. "The city has a lot of say in how it looks," he said.

If BRT-only lanes are approved for Berkeley, their advent will also bring a new customization to bus service: "Sometimes, instead of turning off Telegraph, Bancroft, and Ellsworth streets, Bancroft, Worthington said, "as soon as possible, because each additional delay is putting tons more cars onto the road, increasing the generation of additional congestion that would divert traffic onto neighborhood streets."

George Williams, who is filing in on the Planning Commission for David Stoloff, would support the idea of a hybrid, where he said the city could compare BRT and Rapid Bus Plus.

"We could do that, sure," said Cunradi, offering to add the comparison to the final EIR.

The consultants concluded that, after consideration of conversion of Bancroft Way and Durant Avenue to two-way streets and recommended preference

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Southside Plan Resurfaces after Years in Urban Limbo
The coming week is likely to see a great many people taking numerous journeys down memory lane - and there are some who may decide that it's not in their best interest to return. This only means, of course, that something long past is worth resurrecting and reinstating in the routine of today, and surely this can be of great benefit to some. Others, however, will find that they are much better off moving forward without any further acknowledgment of those things that exist only in the past. Those who are able to reaffirm the strength of their own convictions and relationships are sure to be better off than those now and forever locked in the past. Confidence is of paramount importance at this time, and some things can surely be written in stone.

ARIES (March 21-April 4) — You’re not likely to come up short on leadership. Almost everyone will have an idea that can lead to success. How do you want it? (April 5-April 19) — A direct assault on a lingering problem is your best bet, daunting though it may seem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 5) — It’s a good week to explore areas that have been off-limits in the past. You’ll want to be cautious, however, when first setting out. (May 6-May 20) — You have a long journey in front of you, but if you concentrate on preparation, you’ll have great fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 6) — Are you really brave enough to address the more difficult issues in a manner that invites some real soul searching? Answers are waiting. (June 7-June 20) — Why try to improve on something that has been working so well for you in the past? It can work still.

CANCER (June 21-July 7) — You’re in need of a little inspiration at this time, and you’re likely to get it in a form that is itself inspiring. Keep striving. (July 8-July 22) — Now is the time for you to assess your current situation in a more realistic manner. Don’t fool yourself.

LEO (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) — You will want to go out of your way for someone special — someone who has, in the recent past, done something special for you. (Sept. 8-Sept. 22) — You’re not going to want to be sloppy or irreversible. Follow the rules as often as you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) — You may be facing a challenge. Trust your friends to see you through the most difficult areas. A loyal and rock solid support (Sept. 8-Sept. 22) — A friend or family member will be there for you when you need them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 7) — A door is likely to be opened for you, but if you are too quick to walk through it, you’ll be likely to miss out on the fun of anticipation. (Oct. 8-Oct. 22) — Your plans are coming together, but you’ll want to be sure that all your information is accurate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 7) — It’s a good week to begin working on a new project — but you’ll want to start slowly. Don’t get greedy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 7) — You’re sure to be surprised by what you find in front of you all along the way. (Dec. 8-Dec. 21) — It’s a good week to begin working on a new project — but you’ll want to start slowly. Don’t get greedy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 6) — It’s important that you do exactly as you are told — especially when you sense that those in authority are looking over your shoulder. (Jan. 7-Jan. 20) — You can make more than one major contribution to projects at work. Be creative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 3) — Your discoveries are likely to be more around you than around you. (Feb. 4-Feb. 18) — You may have been thinking about things in a cockeyed fashion lately. Fix the problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) — A few key questions are likely to be asked, and though you understand that you don’t have the answers, you can be by (Mar. 21-Mar. 20) — You’re in need of a safe haven at this time, and after some struggle you should enjoy quiet harmony.
East Bay Tibetans, Chinese Clash Over S.F. Olympic Torch Relay

Continued from Page One Page Five

Justin Herman Plaza in front of the Ferry Building.

“It is sports for people from all over the world,” said Chan, who grew up in Hong Kong. “It’s about the Olympic spirit, there should be no relationship between the Olympics and politics.”

Jessica Kali, who had braved the crowds on the MUNI’s underground trains disagreed.

“I think it’s important for people of color to stand in solidarity with supporters of Tibet,” Kali, a member of the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum. “It’s up to us to pressure China to free Tibet. A lot of people think that China isn’t using the Olympics for political reasons, but it is. It’s using it to justify its power.”

Yi, a Beijing Games supporter, held on tightly to a “San Francisco Welcomes Olympic Torch Flag,” on the steps of the Plaza.

“My wife’s hometown is Beijing and we are very proud that the games are being held there,” he said. “We want to welcome this great moment. I think the protests are improper. It’s an insult to the Olympic spirit. When I read about how a protester hit a disabled torch carrier in France and grabbed the torch, I was very sad. We want this to be a peaceful event. We don’t want to talk about politics at a sports event.”

Most Tibetans at the rally said they were not protesting the torch.

“I did want to see the torch, and I was disappointed when they re-routed it,” said Tenzin, a sophomore at Berkeley City College who immigrated to the United State from Dharamsala, India. “What was great was we could carry our flag freely here. We can’t do it in Tibet. We want people to be safe, to be in peace, whether it is in Tibet or Burma or Darfur.”

Groups clashed in a riot of sound and color at the Justin Herman Plaza minutes before the torch was scheduled to stop there, but it went down Van Ness Avenue instead. Edward Liu, who had mobilized hundreds of Bay Area Chinese for the relay, confronted his Tibetan opponents.

“The Chinese community from all over the Bay Area have worked to showcase this event,” he said. “This has been destroyed by a very simple group of radicals using bull horns to get people together to bash China. With all due respect to Tibetans, the Dalai Lama’s speech about renouncing radicalism is not being followed. With all due respect to the Dalai Lama, he cannot control his own people.”

More than 20 pro-Tibet protesters started circling him with Tibetan flags, but Liu kept on speaking.

“When Tibetans peacefully protested, 140 Tibetans were killed.” Khangsar said. “We want China to give us the human rights it promised to the Olympics committee.”

Pool Users Lobby Board of Education

Continued from Page Five

One Warm Pool Advocacy Group co-chair Juanita Kirby said her group was open and flexible to anything that would save the pool, including a tax measure.

The city is discussing the possibility of putting a bond measure to build a new pool, which would come with a $15 million price tag, on the November ballot.

The mayor’s office is also exploring ways to convert the Milvia Street tennis courts into a warm pool but have not yet reached an agreement with Berkeley Unified about its use.

“We are a small town with limited resources and we are on the brink of a recession,” said longtime pool user Pam Scullen, who supported rehabilitating the pool. “For us, this pool has saved lives.”

One Warm Pool chair JoAnn Cook reminded the board that her group along with several other preservationists and community members had opposed the demolition of the pool and its relocation right after the master plan was completed.

“We are not going to go away, whichever way the board decides on the proposals before it today,” she urged the board. “We will need your help to ensure a warm water pool for Berkeley. Make the commitment needed for that to happen—provide the land and the advocacy. If you take something away from someone, I was taught that you were to give back something of equal value.”

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.

GET FUZZY

Darby Conley

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians' Petition to Be Given a 29.87-Acre Fee-To-Trust Transfer and Gaming Development Project, Contra Costa County, CA

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Pacific Regional Office, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated March 2008, for the proposed trust acquisition of 29.87 acres, by the United States for the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Tribe). The BIA serves as lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Tribe has asked the BIA to take 29.87 acres of land into trust on behalf of the Tribe, on which the Tribe proposes to develop a casino, parking structure and other facilities. The project site is located in unincorporated Contra Costa County, contiguous with the City of Richmond. Regional access to the project site would be from Richmond Parkway via independently constructed access.

The FEIS is available for public review. Written comments on the FEIS must arrive by April 28, 2008. All comments received by this date will be considered in the preparation of the Record of Decision.

You may mail or hand carry written comments to Amy Dutschke, Acting Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820, Sacramento, California 95825. Please include your name, return address and the caption, “FEIS Comments, Scotts Valley Fee-To-Trust and Gaming Development Project,” on the first page of your written comments. The FEIS Comments, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2820, Sacramento, California 95825. Please include your name, return address and the caption, “FEIS Comments, Scotts Valley Fee-To-Trust and Gaming Development Project,” on the first page of your written comments. General information for the Richmond Public Library can be obtained by calling (510) 620–6555 and for the Contra Costa County Library by calling (510) 374-3998. The FEIS is also available at the following website: http://www.scottsvalley-feis.com/.

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CONTRACTORS LICENSE NUMBER C-8 and B-46027
99 of every 100 Americans are not in jail

Embarcadero Justice Department
Officials Search for Explanation

By Joshua Pinion

A new report documenting America’s rank as the world’s number one incarcerator also reveals that 99 out of every 100 Americans are not in jail. The report, released by the Sentencing Project, highlights the inefficiency and inhumane aspects of the prison system.

Critics argue that the current system is not only inefficient but also costly, with the annual cost of incarceration in the United States estimated to be over $80 billion. The report calls for a significant reduction in prison populations, advocating for alternatives such as community-based programs and restorative justice.

The Sentencing Project, a national non-profit organization that works to achieve a fair and effective criminal justice system, released its report entitled “The State of Incarceration in the United States: 2022.” The report highlights the need for a paradigm shift in how society addresses criminal behavior, emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment.

The report also highlights the disproportionate impact of incarceration on racial and ethnic minorities, with the black population being incarcerated at a rate five times higher than the white population. It calls for targeted efforts to address these disparities and eliminate the systemic racism that perpetuates these inequalities.

The report concludes with a call to action, urging policymakers, community leaders, and the public to support evidence-based approaches that prioritize rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and promote public safety.

BIRGENEAU ASKS PANHANDLERS FOR FUNDRAISING HELP

By Izzy Geinitz

“Please give generously to the City of Berkeley...”

...stop me before I make a national ass of myself again...

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS are working to make sure billiard alteration becomes a violation of the Patriot Act, so incidents of this kind will never happen again.

HELPING THE INDIFFERENT RICH WHO WON’T HELP THEMSELVES

C. W. Nevius Recommends Government Intervention for Helpless Rich

By Guest Columnist C. W. Nevius

Last Friday a man marched down Market Street in a $4,000 suit and refused to give a dime to two panhandlers who politely asked him for help. A few days later, he was photographed leaving nothing to charity.

There can be debates about how to handle the middle class when they express anxiety about giving to the poor, but no compassionate person, or city, can stand aside and abandon those who cannot find compassion in themselves.

“The frustration is that a lot of these people are literally sentenced to die indifferent,” Mayor Gavin Newsom said. “I think we all agree that there are people on the street that are not going to change unless there is a dramatic interruption in their routine.”

San Francisco is about to attempt to implement a policy that could get the severely indifferent wealthy and the intransigent greedy into the kind of mandatory programs they need. As early as next month, Darush Kayhian, the city’s homeless policy coordinator, expects to have his Homeless Outreach Teams identifying good candidates for mental health conservatorships.

Conservatorships are not new. The idea is to take individuals who are determined by the court to be “gravely disabled” by their condition and put their affairs in the control of a legal conservator. The conservator could require the individual to undergo treatment, take medications and even accept confinement in a mental health facility for up to a year.

The rich often need intervention of this kind,” agreed Anne Marchant, director of Aging and Adult Services for the city. “San Francisco already has between 900 and 1,000 people in conservatorships – many of whom are elderly people who can’t care for their own affairs.

The report points to a need for increased funding and resources to support these programs, highlighting the importance of addressing the needs of the homeless and the need for a holistic approach to solving homelessness.

LENADIEETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I thought the war was supposed to be good for the economy, but I just lost my job. What’s going on here?

Dear reader, you are an understandable person. Your having lost your job is an obvious confusion. You are now losing your job, obscuring your perspective on the big picture.

Dear Lena, I’m trying to fit these stories on the economy, but it seems like the war will blow through the media and cost someone millions. It’s obvious that the dollar is no longer stable, but isn’t anything stable?

Dear reader, you are correct that the economy is unstable. I wish I could curl up with a good book at the least sign of insecurity. The book she is reading, however, is quite stable, and will rarely lose its value.

Dear Lena, these anti-war marches may be important, but they are so tedious and exhausting. Isn’t there a better way to register my disagreement with policy?

Dear reader, I couldn’t agree more. There’s nothing more annoying than finding yourself next to the person with the bullhorn who hasn’t figured out that they don’t have to shout into it to be heard. You could try voting, writing a letter to your representatives, but it sounds like that would probably be much, much harder for you, so I suggest shouting at the television, which is at least a good breathing and vocal exercise.

Ask Lena for an entertaining economic forecast at edemuyj@jg.org

\* \* \*

THESE RICH PEOPLE are actually victims of a system that robs them of their ability to experience compassion, and without government intervention they run the risk of openly walking the public streets in their embarrassing condition. \* \* \*
CONFIDENT-SHOPPER FOUND

By Sheila B. Jones

Experts and media need to get in line for a chance to interview the confident shopper found recently in a grocery store, hoping to get information which would help others learn to shop with assurance.

Fairbanks, a Mrs. Lula Fairbanks, apparently had no idea that the health of not just the American economy but the global economy as well was deeply dependent upon her willingness to pull out a slightly frayed change-purse and pick up some eggs and onions.

Fairbanks had difficulty maneuvering through the crowded market after news of her willingness to spend money spread through a news community hungry for good economic news.

“I was here last week,” stated Fairbanks, “and there was none of this flush.”

MOTH DISPUTES WATCH LIST INCLUSION, DANGER TO PUBLIC

By Sarah Fin

The brending dispute over whether or not to spray pesticides to fight the light brown apple moth took a new turn when it was discovered that New Zealand has controlled its light brown apple moth population by the use of natural predators, and that the primary benefactor of the proposed pesticide spraying is Stewart Resnick, who owns the largest almond and citrus production companies in the United States and contributed generously to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s election.

“What a coincidence,” exclaimed Aaron McLean, a Schwarzenegger spokesperson. “Arnold has remarked on it himself, actually. Resnick is just a really lucky guy.”
motion, which was seconded by Pati Dacey and joined by Helen Burke and Rodolfo Pacheco.

Poschman said that by recommending the subcommittee proposals to the council, the Housing Advisory and Planning Commission had narrowed the city’s top elective body the most options for staving off the most adverse potential impacts of Proposition 98...the building itself. City Attorney James McElroy and West Berkeley resident Bill Walton.

A citywide commission committee supporters included Allen, Housing Advisory Committee Chair Jesse Arreguin, Barbara Gilbert, Steve Block, Seth Schoen, Karl Fealey and Barbara Shumer, Jackie Richardson, Tracy Duncan Moore and John Ruoff.

Just what impacts Proposition 98 could have if passed by state voters remains unclear under the measure’s vague language. Some critics charge it could effectively end the power of governments to regulate land use by allowing property owners to sue for compensation for any government action that could be construed as diminishing the maximum potential value of their property.

The measure’s anti-rent-control provision, for example, erodes the rights of landlords to rent their property for what the state or local governments may consider below-market rent. The measure of course will also leave the ballot measure in place, should Proposition 98 fail at the polls, they’ll still be charged with coming up with new regulations for density in the city.

In Los Angeles, a lawsuit filed last week is seeking to block the city’s new rent control ordinance, and more suits may be in the offing, according to a Tuesday story in the Los Angeles Times.

Unlike many other cities in California, Berkeley already has an inclusionary housing ordinance with five or more dwelling units to set aside an allotment of apartments or condos at rents or sales prices affordable to those otherwise unable to rent or buy.
## Open Homes

### ALAMEDA
- **5340 Woodside Way** By Appt.
- **Prudential Berkeley**
- **1196 Cornell Ave Sun 1:30-4:30**

### BERKELEY
- **5413**, **327 Haight** 2 bdrm, 1140 sq ft Yr: 1921
- **Prev: $510,000 in 2006**
- **$596,000 924 Tulare Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1140 sq ft Yr: 1924**
- **Prev: $596,000 in 2007**
- **$559,000 1064 Central Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1114 sq ft Yr: 1910**
- **Prev: $453,000 in 2006**
- **$540,000 327 Haight St** Sun 2-4:30

### CROCKED
- **5340**, **6275 Moeser Ln**
- **Surbna Hale**
- **2 bdrm, 1064 sq ft Yr: 1955**
- **Prev: $530,000 in 2006**
- **$490,000 325 Shattuck Ave** Sun 2-4:30

### EL CERRITO
- **5340**, **2790 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rd**
- **3 bdrm, 1350 sq ft Yr: 1959**
- **Prev: $364,000 in 2003**
- **$430,000 1724 Russ Ave**

### EL Sobrante
- **5340**, **3417 S. 12th St**
- **1 bdrm, 720 sq ft**
- **Prev: $208,500 in 1997**
- **$232,000 1175 Joel Ct**

### EMERYVILLE
- **5340**, **1310 Pacific Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1234 sq ft**
- **Prev: $520,000 in 1999**
- **$435,000 1620 Seaview Ave**

### LAHA
- **5340**, **1039 Pomona Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1374 sq ft**
- **Prev: $970,000 in 2006**
- **$650,000 924 11th Ave**

### MILPITAS
- **5340**, **1460 Wooton Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1374 sq ft**
- **Prev: $500,000 in 2006**
- **$300,000 1116 Carleton St**

### MERCEDES
- **5340**, **147 Cornell Ave**
- **2 bdrm, 1022 sq ft**
- **Prev: $218,000 in 1991**
- **$420,000 6315 Vallecito St**

### KENSINGTON
- **5340**, **338 Berkeley Park Boulevard**
- **2 bdrm, 1469 sq ft**
- **Prev: $370,500 in 1998**

### OAKLAND
- **5340**, **1954 4th St**
- **3 bdrm, 1716 sq ft**
- **Prev: $447,500 in 2006**
- **$250,000 776 60th St**

### PLEASANT HILL
- **Saraya Motley**
- **5051 Roosevelt Ave Sun 2-4:30**

### RICHMOND
- **$329,000 393 Cherrywood Ave**
- **4 bdrm, 1895 sq ft**
- **Prev: $282,000 in 1999**
- **$465,000 15810 Washington Ave #209 2-4:30**
- **Prev: $217,000 in 2008**
- **$429,000 1620 Seaview Ave**

### SAN LAMARDO
- **5340**, **3590 San Leandro**
- **2 bdrm, 1369 sq ft**
- **Prev: $330,000 in 1997**
- **$343,000 1690 Seveda St**

### SAN LORENZO
- **5340**, **17423 Via Julia**
- **1 bdrm, 1031 sq ft**
- **Prev: $192,000 in 2006**
- **$335,000 1140 31st Ave**
- **Prev: $110,000 in 1979**
- **$475,000 16129 9th St**

### WEEKLY SALES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Beds/Baths</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Prev. Price</th>
<th>Year Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALAMEDA</strong></td>
<td>3890 Alameda Ave</td>
<td>3BED/2BA</td>
<td>389,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BERKELEY</strong></td>
<td>604 Pacific Ave</td>
<td>1-3BD/1-3BA</td>
<td>640,000</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CROCKETT</strong></td>
<td>5340 3RD ST</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>530,000</td>
<td>375,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EL CERRITO</strong></td>
<td>5340 6225 Moeser Ln</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>619,000</td>
<td>370,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMERYVILLE</strong></td>
<td>5340 11101 Marsh Rd</td>
<td>4BD/2.5BA</td>
<td>650,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KENSINGTON</strong></td>
<td>5340 338 Berkeley Park Boulevard</td>
<td>2BD/1BA</td>
<td>1,124</td>
<td>430,000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OAKLAND</strong></td>
<td>5340 1954 4th St</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>440,000</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLEASANT HILL</strong></td>
<td>5340 2086 13TH ST</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>619,000</td>
<td>370,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RICHMOND</strong></td>
<td>5340 1847 Mariner Way</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>465,000</td>
<td>385,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAN LAMARDO</strong></td>
<td>5340 3590 San Leandro Ave</td>
<td>2BD/1BA</td>
<td>330,000</td>
<td>285,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAN LORENZO</strong></td>
<td>5340 17423 Via Julia</td>
<td>3BD/2BA</td>
<td>475,000</td>
<td>310,000</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I've been the Mulch Queen, or at least Her Majesty's faithful herald, for years. The sight of our locally predominant clay soil lying naked to the elements upsets me. I know what happens when it gets walked on and rained on—yes, rain does compress soil over time if that soil doesn’t have nearly perfect drainage or spongelike absorption—and dried to dust by the sun.

Besides, I'm lazy. Or I prefer to mimic natural processes when I can. Choose one; please don’t consult the editors whose deadlines I break habitually, if not merrily.

When I want to add compost to my garden, I do it by spreading it as mulch. Then I stand back and let the worms do the work, and by gum they do it right. They don’t mess up existing root webs or useful mycorrhizae. (At least, not in my garden they don’t. What imported earthworms have done to the soil networks in some of our forests, that’s a story that can leave me catatonic.)

And though some folks who plant the margins of apartment blocks in Berkeley seem not to believe it, we don’t have much in the way of dangerously venomous snakes here in the flatlands. The bare dirt between those wilting dwarf rosebushes and mums is just so sad and starved-looking.

Now comes UC’s Gordon Frankie to mess with my cherished beliefs. Dang. We have a surprisingly large number of native bee species right here in Berkeley: at least 74. This doesn’t include the familiar honeybee or one of our leafcutter bees, which are exotics native to Eurasia. Frankie has been doing research and education on the ecosystem roles of assorted bees, especially in pollination. I’ve seen him gently catch bees in flight, hold them for a group’s appreciation, and then release them to resume their business.

The good news is that we still have that many bee species in the city. The bad news is that, according to Frankie, some 60 to 70 percent of native bees, most of them solitary rather than colonial species, make their nests in the ground and they need access to bare dirt to do so.

Typically, what ground-nesting bees do is dig a little hole—some line it with bits of leaf or with polyester that they manufacture themselves—lay an egg or a few eggs in it, and provision the egg with a lunchbox of pollen and maybe nectar. This takes numerous trips to each nest, and she needs more than one spot to make a season’s worth of nests. Frankie recommends leaving half your garden’s soil open and bare. Seems to me you’d also have to keep it undisturbed and not dig up the babies, too. I’d suggest keeping at least the spaces underneath furniture, decks, and such features bare, just mulching places that get walked on and the rootways of plants. (And keep it a foot or so away from tree trunks too!)

Unlike barbeque, it seems gardening isn’t a place to go whole hog about anything.

Ron Sullivan is a former professional gardener and arborist. Her “Garden Variety” column appears every Friday in the Daily Planet’s East Bay Home & Real Estate section. Her column on East Bay trees appears every other Tuesday in the Daily Planet.

Too Mulch of a Good Thing

The daffodils have blossomed

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