Candidates Face Questions on Immigration, Education, Health Care

By JUDITH SCHERR

The questions posed to Senate and Assembly candidates at Tuesday evening’s forum presented by the Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action came from real life.

Tania Marrin has lived with an asthmatic child and no health insurance and asked the candidates how they would solve the health problems of the poor and undocumented immigrants. The fear of immigration raids has pierced the community, said Processa Gorristieta, who wanted to know what the candidates would do to bring justice to immigrants. Nancy Williams asked candidates for solutions to education cuts and violence among youth. Some 50 people attended the forum put on by the 18-congregational multi-racial, multi-issue organization. All candidates for the June 3 election for the 14th Assembly District attended—physician Dr. Phil Polakoff, East Bay Regional Parks Board member Nancy Skinner, Richmond City Councilmember Tony Thurmond and Berkeley City Councilmember Kris Worthington.

Vying for a seat in the state Senate, former Assemblymember Wilma Chan attended; Assemblymember Loni Hancock was represented by her campaign manager Terri Waller.

All the candidates said they support a universal single-payer health care system that does not deny health care to undocumented immigrants, though Polakoff said it is unrealistic to hold out for solutions to education cuts and violence among youth. The candidates were asked how they would solve the business that requires City Council approval for the business they do with the City of Oakland. While the practice is for the most part, not illegal, it violates the spirit of the 1997 Oakland Campaign Reform Act which sought to prevent a connection between City Council decisions and campaign donations to city councilmembers running for re-election.

And at least in the case of campaign contributions to Oakland city councilmember for at least 180 days (six months) between the start of and completion of contracts or other city business that requires City Council approval.

But Councilmember Danette Juarez, running for re-election from District 5, received a $600 contribution from A&B Vehicle Processing company last October. Because A&B (under its new name, B&B Vehicle Processing) is currently seeking approval from the City Council for a one-year renewal of its longstanding towing contract with the City of Oakland, the A&B contribution to Brunner would appear to have directly violated the Campaign Reform Act.

Single-payer “is not going to happen today or tomorrow,” he said, arguing that he wants a system that would help children right away. He said he would “take on the insurance companies,” by stopping their practice of dumping patients with costly conditions and refusing to cover those with existing illnesses.

“My number one priority is health care for all, regardless of immigration status,” he said. Polakoff said he has treated

Oakland City Council Candidates Accepted Contributions From City Vendors

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

Oakland City Council incumbents running for re-election are taking in campaign donations from individuals who typically require City Council approval for the business they do with the City of Oakland. While the practice is for the most part, not illegal, it violates the spirit of the 1997 Oakland Campaign Reform Act which sought to prevent a connection between City Council decisions and campaign donations to city councilmembers running for re-election.

And at least in the case of donations from three separate companies, two councilmembers appear to have actually broken Oakland’s campaign finance laws.

Violation of the provisions of the Campaign Reform Act is a misdemeanor.

The Oakland Campaign Reform Act prohibits campaign contributions to candidates for Oakland city councilmember for at least 180 days (six months) between the start of and completion of contracts or other city business that requires City Council approval.

But Councilmember Jane Brunner, running for re-election from District 5, received a $600 contribution from A&B Vehicle Processing company last October. Because A&B (under its new name, B&B Vehicle Processing) is currently seeking approval from the City Council for a one-year renewal of its longstanding towing contract with the City of Oakland, the A&B contribution to Brunner would appear to have directly violated the Campaign Reform Act.

In addition, Brunner and City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente have each recently received $600 contributions from BCC Towing, an East Oakland-based towing company that is listed as a subcontractor with A&B (B&B) in its towing contract renewal request with the City of Oakland.

Continued on Page Thirty-Two

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

Incumbents Lead Fundraising in Oakland City Council Races

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

In the tightly contested June 3 races for the Oakland City Council, incumbent councilmembers are predictably winning the important fundraising battles, with 5th District Councilmember and Council President Ignacio De La Fuente leading the way.

De La Fuente raised $66,380 in the two months March 18 to May 17, the most recent campaign finance reporting period, and has raised $147,480 in campaign contributions since the first of the year. By contrast, the council president’s main District 5 opponent, realtor Mario Juarez, raised $56,195 in the last two months and $50,401 since the beginning of the year. Juarez’

Continued on Page Thirty-Two

Berkeley High Students Take Stand Against Local Immigration Raids

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

What seemed like typical lunch-time ruckus to visitors at Berkeley High School last week was in fact an act of solidarity with immigrants across the nation.

More than 3,000 Berkeley High students trooped out of their classrooms May 22 at a prompt from their principal, Jim Slemp, and surrounded the 17-acre Milvia Street campus to protest the recent arrest of a Berkeley family by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

In less than 10 minutes, members of Fighting for Immigrants’ Rights and Equality (FIRE)—a group formed by Berkeley High staff and students—helped students form a human chain, dotted with posters and placards decriing what they said were violations to immigration rights.

The May 6 arrest of a Latino family who lived near the Berkeley High campus sparked protest among local immigration rights.

“If you had seen our children’s faces when ICE officers took the family in Berkeley you could see the fear in their eyes, said it is unrealistic to hold out for a system that does not deny health care to undocumented immigrants, though Polakoff deny health care to undocumented immigrants, though Polakoff said he has treated

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The Editor Endorses:

State Senate District 9: Wilma Chan
Assembly District 14: Krisss Worthington
Proposition 98: No
Proposition 99: Yes

Election Day is Tuesday, June 3. Don’t forget to vote!

The BERKELEY DAILY PLANET
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Oakland: Slouching Towards Vallejo? See Page 10

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Berkeley High Principal Jim Slemp cheers on more than 3,000 high school students who formed a human chain around the campus last week to protest immigration raids by ICE agents in Berkeley.
LaRouchites Try for a Foothold in County

By JUDITH SCHERR

Described as friendly, brilliant and bright-eyed—and at the same time as scary and cult-like—six LaRouche Democrats are running for Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (ACDCC) slots.

Historical complaints about the LaRouchites—a racism, homophobia and sexism—are not the salient characteristics noted by local Democratic Party activists concerned about the mostly under-30 crop of Lyndon LaRouche followers in Alameda County.

“They’re trying to get a foothold in the Democratic party,” said Eddie Irons, who is running for a seat on the ACDCC on the Grassroots Progressive (GP) slate in the June 3 election.

“We’re all really concerned—it’s anxiety-provoking,” said Sumi Paranjape, also stumpimg for a slot on the Central Committee as part of the same slate. LaRouchites have run in the county before with one or two candidates. “There’s never been a full slate of Lyndon LaRouche supporters,” Paranjape said.

Concerned a half-dozen local Democratic Party activists contacted the Planet center around the group’s apparent intent to move the committee away from its current activities doing local organizing around concrete issues such as health care and improved working conditions.

Repeated attempts by the Planet to reach the LaRouche candidates were unsuccessful.

Irons described the behavior of LaRouche when they come to the county meeting as “very preachy—they keep asking strange questions” then they’ll ask a non-sequitor question. “They’re bright-eyed—and at the same time as scary and cult-like.”

Irons talked about his interaction with a member of the Lyndon LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) at a recent Democratic Party state convention: “He was trying to explain to me what he wants to do to impact the planet Mars and bring back the space program,” she said. “I know the purpose of the LaRouchites’ activism came up at a Greater-Oakland Democratic Club meeting in May. I’d like to see someone from our party as governor” and getting good appointments for judges, but “they’re thinking only about Lyndon LaRouche,” Egerman said. Lyndon LaRouche, 85, has run for president eight times since 1978, seven times on the Democratic Party ticket. In the 1990s he was convicted of tax and mail fraud and served five years of a 15-year sentence.

Researcher and writer Chip Berlet notes that LaRouche claimed he has no income “although he lived in a huge mansion surrounded by armed guards, and regularly jetted around the globe....” (See www.pub- licwatch.org/berlet/berlet.html.)

Sumi Paranjape, running on the Grassroots Progressive slate, told the Planet that most voters don’t know who is running. They will look at their ballot and all the information they’ll get are names and occupations.

The cultlike nature of the group is of concern, Egerman said. “The overall goal seems to be one person—Lyndon LaRouche.”

“You have to make them understand that there is an ideology here. Right now, they are just people. And they’re dangerous.”

Another aspect of the group that worries local Democrats is that the LaRouchites “talk impressively about international politics—but do so when the discussion is focused on foreign and other questions, such as how to build the local party.”

None of the local Democratic Party activists contacted in the Planet felt they knew the purpose of the LaRouchites’ activity entered into the local party structure.

“None of these activities—their diatribes,” said Howard Egerman, a 14-year member of the ACDCC, discussed a meeting held by Rep. Barbara Lee at the Allen Temple Baptist Church in East Oakland last month. “They kept asking strange questions—and singing,” he said.

“I am not able to truly understand what they want to do,” Irons said. “Their weird evangelism is off-putting to me.”

On the League of Women Voters’ website, LaRouche candidate Ian Overton has posted a “position paper,” written by Amelia Robinson, of the Schiller Institute. The paper is more of a letter of advice to the six LaRouche candidates: Overton, Jon Burnett, Ben Deniston, John Craig, Ramiro Bravo and Oyang Teng.

“Ironically,” it reads, “through this is a serious messed-up world, with Lyn’s and Helga’s [Lyndon and Helga LaRouche] wisdom and guidance you cannot go wrong. You are building the foundation for bigger and better positions (be sure you keep your mind and body clean), so don’t stop keeping your eyes on the prize (President). Above all, keep your hand in the Hand (God’s) of the man who troubles the waters. To get to the top, be kind, patient, and loving as well as afulful.

Another aspect of the group that worries local Democrats is that the LaRouchites “are not prepared for their work in the Democratic Party.”

“The rest of us have regular jobs,” said Howard Egerman, a 14-year member of the ACDCC. He said the question of paid activism came up at a Metropolitan Grassroots and Democratic Club candidates’ forum. “The question was, ‘Are you paid?’ They said, ‘Yes,’ he said. The statement was confirmed by a second person attending the meeting.

The purpose of the 40-member ACDCC is to select the Democratic Party at the grass roots—register voters, search out candidates, endorse people running for office and actively campaign for them.

The LaRouche Democrats do not do the nuts and bolts work of building the party and registering candidates, Egerman said.

“I’d like to see someone from our party as governor” and getting good appointments for judges, but “they’re thinking only about Lyndon LaRouche,” Egerman said.

Lyndon LaRouche, 85, has run for president eight times since 1978, seven times on the Democratic Party ticket. In the 1990s he was convicted of tax and mail fraud and served five years of a 15-year sentence. Researcher and writer Chip Berlet notes that LaRouche claimed he has no income “although he lived in a huge mansion surrounded by armed guards, and regularly jetted around the globe....” (See www.pub- licwatch.org/berlet/berlet.html.)

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Carjacking Suspects Elude Manhunt In Berkeley Hills

By JUDITH SCHERR

An early riser at 5:30 on Wednesday morning thought he’d spotted a thief in the act of committing a crime which is the subject of legislation that has passed the state Assembly and is now headed for the Senate. He saw a man loading many copies of newspapers from distribution boxes on College Avenue near Ashby into a pickup truck, and he called the Berkeley Police Department with a full description of the man, the truck, complete with license number.

Officer Andrew Frankel, spokesperson for the Berkeley Police Department, told the Planet on Wednesday afternoon that an officer was dispatched to the area, but there was no sign of a thief when they got there.

He said that in order to pursue the possible thief further, the reporting party would have to be willing to sign a complaint. Witnesses who think they’re observing a theft and report it must be willing to provide their names and make a citizen’s arrest, Frankel said. He noted that poachers generally work in the wee hours of the morning and are observed by few people, and said the department does not track the number of citations given for theft of free newspapers.

Publishers aren’t really free, however. Publishers know what newspaper costs. And professional poachers who rip newspapers and sell them to recycling companies know their value too. The price of newsprint is going up, the economy is shrinking, and theft of papers from news boxes is on the rise.

Though this particular witness was not willing to sign a complaint, he did give full information about what happened, including his own name and phone number, to a group of interested parties, newspaper publishers and honest recyclers who are working together to put an end to paper theft. They forwarded his information to the Planet. The witness asked in a followup email that his name be published.

He said in his report that he also called an Oakland buyer of recycled newsprint to report the likely arrival of the thief, and urged the woman who answered the phone to call the Oakland Police Department. He reported that she said the truck was last observed at her location, but she wouldn’t call the police.

So, he said, he called the police himself. The OPD dispatcher said “But the newspapers are free.” He told her that theft of free papers is a crime. By press time on Wednesday, no one had been arrested.

Incidents like this one are why there’s a great deal of support among publishers of local free papers—the Examiner, the San Francisco Bay Guardian, the East Bay Express, the Berkeley Daily Planet and more—for AB 1778, sponsored by Assemblymember Fiona Ma, which passed the Assembly 45 to 24 on May 22 and is now headed to the State Senate.

Under AB 1778, recycling companies would be required to identify those who bring recyclables and newspapers worth $30 or more to sell. The bill also requires the recycling company to pay by check for recyclables worth $50 or more.

“This should give us the ability to cut off the [poachers’] money supply,” Express Publisher Hal Brody told the Planet.

A full pick-up load of newsprint will fetch $80 to $100. Brody said, noting that he would have preferred that the bill require identification and payment by check at the $25 level. He said he fears that
Most Speakers at AC Transit Hearing Oppose Fare Increases

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

AC Transit bus district directors took their first steps last week toward a possible fare increase this fall, holding a public hearing on the issue May 21 at Oakland City Hall.

The City Council Chambers were packed with bus riders for the three-hour hearing and, predictably, most spoke out either against any fare increase at all or against fare increases for the riders who might be most adversely affected—the eld-erly, the disabled, and the youth.

AC Transit officials say the fare hikes are needed because of rising employee health care and fuel costs, among other expenses.

Typical of the two-minute statements from more than 50 citizens was one from Eugene Johnson, a retired Oakland home-owner, who said that “AC Transit is becoming more user unfriendly. The rates go up and the service goes down.”

Complaining that AC Transit had earlier dropped a half-hour off the time in which a bus transfer can be made, Johnson said that the proposed fare increases would cause people to stop taking the bus, adding that “decreasing ridership is no solution.”

People to stop taking the bus, adding that “go up and the service goes down.”

The rates go up and the service goes down.”

The hearing adjourned at 5:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

AC Transit is considering four separate fare increase proposals, with directors having the option of accepting none of them, accepting one, or mixing elements between some of the proposals.

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The Berkeley Sea Scout leader who was arrested in December for the alleged sex-ual abuse of his charges was hit with still more counts on Friday.

Eugene Austin Evans, 65, spent the weekend in jail after he was rearrested on newly filed counts of exposing minors to pornography.

Evans had generated headlines national-ly two years ago when the Supreme Court turned down his appeal of a lawsuit he had filed against the city of Berkeley after councilmembers refused to grant his ship a free berth because of the anti-gay policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Tor-nence said Wednesday that with the new counts, Evans is charged with 18 counts of sexual abuse and displaying pornography to minors.

The crimes charged include seven vic-tims with offenses going back to 1988, the earliest date allowed under the statute of limitations for sex crimes.

“There are other victims who would tes-tify that they were offended by going beyond the statute,” Torrence said, with one victim telling investigators that the sexual abuse go back 10 years.

While Evans was originally charged with 19 counts, some of those counts were con-solidated, she said.

Crimes charged include lewd and lasciv-ious acts with a minor, oral copulation with a minor under age 16, sexual penetration with an object of a minor and commission of sex acts on a youth of 15 by an adult at least 10 years older.

Evans faces a potential minimum sen-tence of 30 years if convicted of all charges.

When charged with the latest counts, Torrence said brought a response from Ward 1 Councilmember, saying that “people who accuse us of mis-management”

AC Transit, added that “the buses are showing up every day.”

But for the most part, board members listened quietly to the testimony and made no comment. The board is not scheduled to take any action on a possible fare increase until its June 11 regular meeting, and Board President Chris Peeples said that decision may be pushed back to the June 25 meeting.

The hearing took only one unexpected turn when, an hour and a half into the publi-c testimony, with citizens still lining up to speak, board members reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

The hearing adjourned at 5:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m.

AC Transit is considering four separate fare increase proposals, with directors having the option of accepting none of them, accepting one, or mixing elements between some of the proposals.

All four proposals would raise adult fares 25 cents from $1.75 to $2, youth and senior/disabled fares 15 cents from 85 cents to $1, and adult monthly passes from $70 to $80.

The proposal one, recommended by staff, also raises youth and senior/disabled pass-es. Proposal two raises youth and senior/disabled passes by a lesser amount, while proposals three and four keep those passes at their current rates. Proposal three pro-vides free transfers, while proposed four keeps the current 25 cent charge for trans-fers.

The ridership difference in the yearly amounts projected to be raised from the four pro-posals are significant, ranging from $9.3 million for proposal one to $6.5 million for proposal two, $4.5 million for proposal three, and $3.9 million for proposal four.

Bay City News

Thousands of patient care and service workers for the University of California system announced Friday they plan to strike as soon as June 2 because they feel their wages just don’t cut it.

“Most of the workers perform tasks such as driving buses, cleaning medical instruments and performing other tasks to keep the system running,” said the UC system’s website.

They said they want a fair wage, the opportunity to negotiate in good faith, and benefits that are equal to those offered to other workers.

The patient care workers did not present any specific proposals, but they did say they want to see some of the proposals.

The UC System workers will vote on a strike as soon as June 2.

On the other hand, the university system announced Friday they plan to increase wages for service workers.

The patient care workers had not seen the perks.

UC San Diego service worker Angela Velazquez said she had to get a second job to support her children because, without out it, her income is about $1,800 a month.

Velazquez said she misses her children and wants to be able to provide for her family with one job.

“I know what I do is not glamorous but I feel proud to work at UC and provide serv-ices for the students,” she said. “It is not fair that people doing the same jobs are making more.”

The UC system also proposed an increase in wages for service workers Thursday night, but Velazquez said that the workers were not able to strike.

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The Berkeley Daily Planet

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The masked takeover bandit dubbed “The Lone Gunman” has pulled off at least two more armed robberies in Berkeley, police announced.

Though Berkeley police officer Andrew Frankel had announced on May 7 the arrest by Oakland police of a “person of interest” in the crime spree, the suspect has pulled off at least four heists in the weeks since, according to a May 22 department crime alert.

“The takeaway bandits” are so named because they invade a business, typically late in the day when cash registers are full, then proceed to rob not only the cash register but any unfortunate customers or clerks present to be on hand.

The Lone Gunman’s first known Berkeley robbery happened April 15, when he hit Famous Foam Factory at 2397 San Pablo Ave. The next day came a stick-up at Eco Home Improvement, 2619 San Pablo.

When he struck at Berkeley’s Good Vibrations on the 18th, 30 folks were attending a seminar in the 2504 San Pablo Ave. store.

Police believe he’s the same masked man who later expanded his operations to strike the Subway sandwich shop at 1105 University Ave., just east of San Pablo, on the 29th and to hit two days later the New Economy Laundry at 3290 Sacramento St. Frankel said on May 7 that the robber is also suspected of at least three similar crimes in Oakland, two at adult bookstores and one at a bicycle shop.

His latest victims include the Radio Shack at 1652 University Ave. on May 12, followed by the robbery of one restaurant—Deaughan Kabob at 1106 University on May 14—and two cell phone providers, Wave Wireless at 1475 San Pablo on May 16 and Berkeley Wireless at 1935 Ashby on May 20.

Because of the mask, the police description is vague: “An African-American male, late teens to late 20s, tall, thin build, wearing dark clothing, baseball or other cap, a mask, and armed with a handgun.”

In the crime alert, police ask anyone spotting the suspect to call 911 immediate-ly—981-9911 from cell phones—and if robbed, to provide the police dispatcher with a suspect description, the direction he took after the robbery and a descrip-tion of any vehicle he may be using.

Police also advise business owners to tell employees not to resist and to consid-er making cash deposits earlier in the day to lessen potential losses.

Anyone with information on the crimes should call the department’s Robbery Detail at 981-5742.

Regents Greenlight BP Lab, LBNL Computing Center

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The University of California Board of Regents Tuesday signed off on the envi-ronmental impact reports on two contro-ver-sial buildings at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The finding clears the way—barring an advi-cy by a pending court case—for a July construction start for facilities that will house the controversial agrofuel program funded by BP, the British oil giant, and the National Energy Research Scientific Computing (NERSC) Center, a Department of Energy facility.

The lawsuit, now being deliberated by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch, was filed by Berkeley preservationists—including a Daily Planet editor—in yet another legal challenge to university-related building plans. [see www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2007-08-24/article/27856?status=301]

The Regents adopted an earlier envi-ronmental review last July that focused on the lab’s Long Range Development Plan, approving a Statement of Overrid-ing Considerations declaring that the impacts of the planned 980,000 square feet of new construction are offset by mit-igation measures and the need for new facilities.

Plaintiffs in that action—Alamedans concerned about environmental impact reports on two contro-ver-sial buildings at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. 

The regents approved a request by the State Water Resources Control Board to recirculate the Environmental Impact Report on the LRDP, the document under which the two projects are included—though each had a separate EIR.

Of the two buildings, one, the Helios facility [see http://www.lbl.gov/Communi-ty/Helios/documents/index.html], directly overlooks Strawberry Canyon, which envi-ronmentalists contend is endangered by construction, at least for the moment. The plaintiffs have asked the university to circulate a separate EIR on the LRDP, the document under which the two projects are included—though each had a separate EIR.

The second building, the Computational Research and Theory (CRT) Facility [see http://www.lbl.gov/Community/CRT/documents/index.ht ml], lies at the other end of the lab’s 202-acre campus.

In an earlier session on May 13, regents unanimously in favor of the buildings,” said McLaughlin. “We haven’t regrouped yet.”

McLaughlin said “I would like to think that a win” in Roesch’s court could halt construction, at least for the moment. The plaintiffs have asked the university to recirculate the Environmental Impact Report on the LRDP, the document under which the two projects are included—though each had a separate EIR.

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Plaintiffs in that action include Lesley Emmington, a former city landmarks com-missioner, Save the Bay co-founder Sylvia McLaughlin, Panoramic Hill Association activist Janice Thomas, Hank Gehman and Anne Wagley, this newspaper’s Arts and Calendar editor.

Alamedan environmental attorney Michael Lozeau is representing the plain-tiffs, while Michael H. Zischke of San Francisco is arguing on behalf of the regents.

“We’re very disappointed that the Com-mittee on Grounds and Buildings decided

Page 5

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The BERKELEY DIARY
May 29 - June 4, 2008

THE WEEK IN BERKELEY

Thursday, May 29

"Victory Gardens in American Agriculture" with Raquel Rivera-Pinder-
than, at Berkeley Regional Library, 2040 Berkeley Way. A panel discussion on how unions can continue to support food sovereignty. The panel will be followed by a potluck at the Richmond (Bernardine) Community Center, 360 Harbour Way South, at 5 p.m. (See Events Calendar.)

Global Unions: Innovative Strategies from Cross-Border Labor Campaigns with Eric Klinenberg at City Commons Club Noon to 1 p.m. at Jewish Community Center, 2751 Ninth St. (See Events Calendar.)

Farmer Tours at UC Botanical Garden, 200 University Ave. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Botanical Garden to learn about the University of California Botanical Garden's innovative regional growing program. (See Events Calendar.)

Friday, June 6

Global Canoe Audubon Society Birding in Tilden Park, 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the parking lot at the north end of the central parking area at Tilden Park, near a lush riparian area. 848-9716.

"Proposition 13 and the Future of Northern California" a day-long conference at the Berkeley City Club. See Events Calendar for more details.

Special Olympics Summer Games Opening Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Games are Sat. from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sun. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Haas Pavilion, UC Campus. Free. www.soccsports.org

"Battlesfield without Borders" with poet David Smith and retired General Jim Haber at St. Joseph the Worker, 1414 Walnut St. (See Events Calendar.)
Constitution of $10 Million BUSD Transportation Facility Underway

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

The Berkeley Unified School District is a step closer to relocating its administrative office by November 2006, will bring together functions now housed at three different sites in the city and host an office building, said Coplan. “The cost per square footage of renovating the building is much cheaper than building new a structure.”

Since the West Campus site was abandoned in 2004, the buildings have suffered vandalism, said Coplan. “The city does its part to maintain the 5.5 acre site along with the school district, he added.

“It’s tough there’s no regular population,” Coplan said. “The neighbors need to step up and do something and we hope they’ll be able to take it to the next step.”

City and school district officials are exploring options to use the new Adult School auditorium for school board. City Council and other commission meetings, Coplan said, since the West Campus was not a feasible location for TV recordings.

According to a report presented to the school board in January, the district’s plans of construction a building at the middle of Strawberry Creek and constructing a childcare facility at the site.

The district proposes to submit its plans for the West Campus project to the Division of the State Architect for approval, because students will eventually be held in the pre-K classrooms, instead of to the adults who currently are under overcrowding in non-classroom construction.

Some community members have expressed concerns about the possible exemption from the Section of Berkeley’s planning process.

According to a report prepared by Baker Vilar Architects— the firm hired by Berkeley Unified to design the modular— these ideas behind the proposed project is to create greater efficiency and collaboration between divisions.

The Berkeley Unified School District’s $10 million transportation facility at Sixth Street is scheduled to be finished by October 2009.

To advertise in the Berkeley Daily Planet, call 841-5600.
Berkeley High Students Take Stand Against Local Immigration Raids

Continued from Page One

kids really cared," said Slemp. "People were scared. It was important that we treat people equally and make Berkeley High a safe place for everyone. This is a statement about who we are. Kids could have gone out to lunch if they wanted to, but they chose to stay back for this." Berkeley High sophomore Giovanni Guzman waved a red and blue "Fire Melts Ice" poster next to a 6-foot-long "Power to the People" banner. "I am here trying to show where we stand," said Guzman, who was born in Mexico. "Many of my family members are afraid for them to leave their homes. Of ICE raids caused immigrant families that they and their children are safe on our campuses. We also want them to know that we will not share student information with the INS."

"The reaction within the community [regarding the arrests] was fear and anxiety and part of [ICE's] intent was intimidation," said school board president John Selawsky. "Our kids have to be comfortable coming to school every day. We don't want them to be afraid of outside agencies and worry about being questioned and detained and taken away in vans." Hemphill said the district's new policy will be modeled on the City of Berkeley's, which declares Berkeley as a "City of Refuge" and directs the Berkeley Police Department not to participate or collaborate with ICE. "Even though ICE agents did not set foot on any school campus, they can do so with permission from higher authorities," Hemphill said. "That's not a way for students to feel safe." The district is researching several school district policies opposing ICE raids. The San Francisco Unified School District in 2004, which was drafted after reports of ICE raids caused immigrant families to stop sending their children to school, afraid for them to leave their homes.

Newspaper Theft

Continued from Page Three

the bill could be weakened in the senate by those who want the threshold set at $100. Meanwhile, the percentage of vehicles stolen from Berkeley residents, regardless of their citizenship status or national origin, and we cannot do it unless our schools provide a safe and secure environment.

While commissioners had been slated to end plunder cars on the commission, which is chaired by another member of the DAPAC minority, architect Jan Herold. "I support Poschman, because, while he didn't think the staff's revising efforts were legitimate, I find myself in a classic double-bind," said John English, a retired planner, who worked closely with the joint subcommittee formed of DAPAC and Landmarks Preservation Commission members, which hammered out the chapter on historic preservation and urban design. "I am really disturbed by some of the perceived conflicts between the two. "The details are very important," said John English, who said "some of the wording was very good, but some of it was problematic."

Continued from Page One

The curtain went up on the Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee (DAPAC), which was appointed by the City Council to draft a plan for an expanded downtown area that will house a projected 800,000 square feet of off-campus construction by UC Berkeley.

After the initial formalities, the meeting opened with a comment by former DAPAC Chair Will Taecker endorsing Taecker's proposed rewrite. "I support both the substance and the approach of the staff recommendations," he said. While Taecker was joined by the fellow DAPAC members on key votes in the committee, his critique of the plan seemed destined to find friendlier ears on the Planning Commission headed for a rewrite.

Planning Commissioner Dan Marks stood center stage, with the author of his department's staff rewrite taking notes and offering the occasional comment. Commissioners have until early January to prepare their own recommendations, said Principal Planner Matt Taecker, who was hired to guide the planning process.

Sitting on the commission Wednesday night were five members of the Downtown Area Plan Advisory Committee (DAPAC), which was appointed by the City Council to draft a plan for an expanded downtown area that will house a projected 800,000 square feet of off-campus construction by UC Berkeley.

City Council to draft a plan for an expanded downtown area that will house a projected 800,000 square feet of off-campus construction by UC Berkeley.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1982 in Plyler v. Doe that public schools were prohibited from denying immigrant student access to elementary and secondary public education.

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Downtown Plan Hits Rough Waters in Commission Discussions

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The curtain went up on the Downtown Area Plan’s second act Wednesday night, with members of the department Planning Commission headed for a rewrite. Planning Commissioner Dan Marks stood center stage, with the author of his department’s staff rewrite taking notes and offering the occasional comment. Commissioners have until early January to prepare their own recommendations, said Principal Planner Matt Taecker, who was hired to guide the planning process.

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Jane Fonda moved to the Elmwood in 1971. Residents would stop her and tell her that she looked like Jane Fonda. She would humbly reply, “Oh everyone says that”.

Save the Elmwood Campaign of 1982 involving Ozzie’s Soda Shop started the country’s first commercial rent control laws.
McCain and the Death of Conservatism

As the primary season grinds to a close, many Democrats expect a landslide victory in the November general election and look forward to four years of a Democratic president working with a partisan Congress. What isn’t being discussed is the possible end of the conserva-
tive era. The smashing defeat of John McCain and the Republican Party should signal that Americans reject the inept conser-
vative ideology that’s dominated U.S. politics for 28 years.

Since the Reagan presidency, four pillars of American conservative ideology have controlled political discourse. The first is the idea that America is best protected by a gar-
gantuan military. Conservatives have con-
tended that to keep the U.S. safe it is neces-
sary to have by far the biggest defense estab-
ishment. This notion reached its apotheosis
by far the biggest defense estab-
ishment. This notion reached its apotheosis
during the Cold War. Since the Reagan presidency, conserva-
tives have contended that the Federal gov-
ernment needs to be transformed by pro-
duction of smaller governments. McCain has
reduced governmental oversight—causing problems such as the recent credit crisis—
and filled the Federal government with
incompetent political appointments such as
Michael Brown and Donald Rumsfeld. Again, McCain promises to continue these
dysfunctional conservative practices that
decrease the effectiveness and integrity of
Federal programs.

The second pillar of conservatism is tax re-
duction. Beginning with the Reagan era,
conservatives have argued that the federal
government is the promise of small government.

The third pillar of conservatism is reduc-
ing the size of the federal government. Due to
dysfunctional conservative practices that
decrease the effectiveness and integrity of
Federal programs.

The fourth pillar of conservatism is the pre-
sumption of competent management. Ronald Reagan recognized that when Americans have confidence in their lead-
ers, particularly the president, they are optimistic about the future, which is good for the economy. But after eight years of George W. Bush, Americans no longer have faith in their Republican leaders.

Eighty-two percent of Americans believe the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction, and two-thirds feel it’s Bush’s fault.

The past 28 years, conservatives have argued that while Democrats are "social
engineers" who know only how to tax
towards ineffective federal social pro-
grams, Republicans are "professional man-
agers" of the U.S.

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

The Public Eye

By Bob Burnett

City of Berkeley decisionmakers would like us to believe that circum-
evances beyond their control have
forced them to consider new tax and bond
measures for the November ballot. At the
council’s May 6 budget workshop, City
Manager Phil Kamlarz and Budget Manag-
er Tracy Vesely blamed Berkeley’s fiscal
situation on Prop. 13, the real estate downturn,
and Sacramento’s past and possible future
raids on municipal treasuries, while prais-
ing the council for its wisdom and foresight.
The council’s commitment to
continued

COUNCILMEMBER WOZNIAK thanked staff
"for keeping the budget on an even keel."
I thought that last week’s column had completed my discussion of the “Safe Streets And Neighborhoods Act of 2008” — the proposed ballot initiative that would increase Oakland’s police force by 272 officers to a total of 1075 — and Mayor Ron Dellums’ counter-proposal of a property tax increase initiative to increase OPD’s strength by 50 to 803.

However, now comes the May 25 Matier & Ross item in the San Francisco Chronicle — the last I ordered from that newspaper, by the way — in which Matier & Ross note a back-door, back-handed comment by Dellums Chief of Staff David Chai, and an addendum is clearly in order.

The Matier & Ross column item revealed that when the Safe Streets initiative began circulating in petition form in the hope of making the November ballot, the immediate result was “a meeting between Dellsm, Police Chief Wayne Tucker, and the Safe Streets committee Chairwoman Jean Quan, who was worried the measure would bankrupt the city’s police department. The mayor went public with his own idea of a counterproposal of a 50-person increase property tax initiative itself.

Matier & Ross wrote, “Mr. Matier and Mr. Ross wrote, ‘the mayor and his principal political opponents are trying to stave off political demands for new police, including all of the 63 Measure Y problem-solving officer positions. But that’s not the point. During the debate over Mr. Dellums’ augmentation plan, many citizens said they had lost trust with the City on this issue, regretted their previous votes in favor of Measure Y, and vowed that they would not support such a tax measure again. History has shown us that doesn’t take much organized opposition to derail a two-thirds majority for passage. Mr. Dellums’ proposed 50-police-increase property tax initiative would fly right in the teeth of those political winds.

If 50 more police are necessary at this time for the Dellsm Administration to move forward with its public safety proposals and reforms, then they should show courage and move forward with it, just as the mayor showed courage last January in promising to fully staff the 803 limit to advance the mayor’s public safety initiatives. However, for the San Francisco Chronicle — the last I ordered from that newspaper, by the way — in which Matier & Ross note a back-door, back-handed comment by Dellums Chief of Staff David Chai, and an addendum is clearly in order.

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I t you sometimes read the Planet online (and we hope you do) you will have seen our new navigation aid called the Editor's Back Fence. It's a collection of items too small or too silly to dignify with print, and will appear randomly at the executive editor's pleasure. Of course it has another goal, to motivate readers to check out the really-Daily-online Planet each and every day so that they don't miss anything. Interestingly, the teacher's complaint that our education reporter didn't talk to a school principal for a story she did that. That's one of those “thank you for asking” questions, and you can see the full reply online. But also noted in an item reporting that public safety employees are being laid off is that they are not at all happy about it. That's a question you probably don't course.

Further improvements were made in the mid-'70s, despite Republican vetoes, and it's been up and down ever since. Many of us enjoyed getting records of government surveillance of our '60s political activities in the late '70s, since. Many of us enjoyed getting records of government surveillance of our '60s political activities in the late '70s, often with humorous details of how the watchers had completely misunderstood what they were seeing. Ever since then, the concept of freedom of information law has waxed and waned at the federal level. Some states, California being one, have jumped aboard the bandwagon with their own legislation appealing to the actions of state government, with varying degrees of effectiveness. A relatively new focus is addressed by open meeting laws like California's Brown Act, which seeks to guarantee that citizens can always monitor activities of public bodies and comment on them.

The value of laws like these in enabling democratic and effective governmental decision-making can't be over-emphasized. It's the parallel job of the press to make sure that even when citizens can't attend all meetings in person or read every government document they will still be informed and active voters. A number of forward-looking California cities, notably San Francisco and Oakland, have taken the concept a step further and extended it to municipal government meetings itself.

Berkeley, surprisingly, has lagged way behind the curve – our own Sunshine Ordinance has been on the back burner for more than six years now. An energetic group of self-starters is now working to solve that problem, and, as of a few City Council meetings ago, they're dragging city officials behind them, kicking and screaming all the way of course.

Why wouldn't public officials want citizens to know what they're up to? That's a question you probably don't need to answer for you, but I have a few suggestions.

Number one: money. In this issue we have a Public Eye feature, “Brokers of an Opposition Candidate” by Ken Meade which appeared in the May 22 Planet.) Nearly 40 years ago, I was fortunate to be elected to the same Assembly seat now being sought by Kris Worthington. With immense help from Berkeley's progressive community, we were able to defeat a Hoyt Republican incumbent, take control of the district from the conservatives, and deliver it into progressive hands. Tom Bates, whom I have known for more than 50 years as a political partner and campaign manager, then became my administrative assistant, and ultimately succeeded me in that office.

It therefore pains me personally to publicly challenge the mayor’s progressive integrity, but I have seen enough. By opposing Kris Worthington's candidacy, Mayor Bates has not only confirmed Dave Blake's opinions of him, but has frustrated the hopes and desires of thousands of Berkeley progressives who have supported the mayor in the past, but who now want and need Kris Worthington’s progressive leadership in the state Legislature. One can almost can only assume that the motivation behind the mayor’s support of an opposition candidate is the fact that Kris Worthington has consistently opposed the Mayor when the latter has attempted to betray the progressive movement in Berkeley.

As one who played a small part in the formation of that movement and desires to see it succeed, I enthusiastically support Kris Worthington’s candidacy for the 14th Assembly district position and urge all Berkeley and district progressives to do the same.

Addendum 1: The term “progressive” as used extensively throughout this letter is intended by the author to mean one who supports or defends the greater public interest against the ambitions of those who comprise the concentrations of wealth and power in our community.

Addendum 2: No one associated with the Kris Worthington campaign has urged me to write this article, nor have I been an active participant in that campaign. The ideas expressed herein are entirely my own for which I am entirely responsible.

Continued on Page Sixteen
A group of well-intentioned individu-
als (North Oakland Cohousing) has
formed a Cohousing Community in the
area of North Oakland's Temescal Dis-
trict—partners with low income fami-
lies and seniors and seeks to form a
cooperative with their 20 units. After
turning out in force to support their
developers on other projects, their
own project was labeled "Project King-
fish". They have been accused of us-
ping the development and her convic-
tion, "Many land use regulations can be
inflexible, argument that with very few
exceptions most of which would apply very
in the agreement with Project Kingfish...we
would pay them less if we couldn't build five stories as planned."

The co-owners with their "heart-touching
coho stories" were especially useful as
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Victorian cottages, and another residential building—seven
units under rent control.

The unwieldy, chevron-shaped parcel at the
gate of Claremont and Telegraph that resulted when
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The Berkeley Daily Planet
May 29 - June 4, 2008

COMMENTS
Opinions expressed in Daily Planet commentary and letters to the editor are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Daily Planet or its staff.

OAK GROVE ISSUE
Springs Back to Life
By DOUG BUCKWALD

T ime is definitely not the thing that flies when you are living in a tree. Birds fly, to be sure, and squirrels and insects fly, too. But what of the research going on outside the human lifetime on the ground below—your food flies up to you on ropes, but time passes incrementally, governed more by the rhythms of nature. Sunlight, moonlight, stars, rain, wind, and the changing seasons become your clock. It has been said that since the Le Conte oak—oak number one of the nine it sits first occupied the threatened trees in Moraga Avenue Grove—has been on Piedmont Avenue, and they are still up there. They are a visible example of the concern that many in our community feel about the fate of this special natural place.

When it does, it is important to keep cer-
tain key points in mind: First, the judge issued an 80-year temporary injunction that has protected the trees from harm up to now because, after reviewing the facts and law in the case, she believed that the petitioners (those who want to save the trees) were likely to prevail in a hearing. Given the strength of the petitioners’ case, both the individuals and groups in the resolution of this matter, she did not make that decision without considerable thought and care for the ques-
tion that she felt she was doing the right thing.

Second, because there are so many causes of action and detailed issues involved, Judge Miller’s decision may not mark the end of the legal process. There may be a split decision, granting some protection to the trees and denying it to others. Moreover, it may take considerable time to sort out. And of course, either side may elect to appeal the judge’s decision. What this means is that the court action by the petitioners if she rules against protecting the grove—or by the university if she rules in favor of protecting it—may be a long road.

Third, don’t forget that it is against the law in Berkeley to cut down any coast live oak tree. In fact, since the Le Conte oak is the only tree species granted such protection in our city, this ordinance was passed in 1979 to protect the trees from harm up to now. The Le Conte oak is the only tree species granted such protection in our city. This ordinance was passed in 1979 to protect the trees from harm up to now.

For over three years, the Le Conte Neighborhood Association and Berkeley Neighborhood Antenna-Free Union (BNAFU) has been pursuing a moratorium on antenna application to place 18, now reduced to 11, on antennas on South Shat-
tuck’s UC Storage. From the eastern wall of this building, alone, two very powerful cell antennas, will emit a total of 2,000 watts of radio frequency (RF) radiation. Twelve hundred watts of this total are for data transmission, and have nothing to do with the wireless, air to air calls. And of course, there are two 200-watt antennas also emitting RF radiation facing directly into neighboring homes, one 4000 feet away, the others 100 feet away. In Berkeley, and none in the Berkeley Hills)

By MARVIN CHACHERE

The View from the Gutter

P residential campaign reporting wallows in the language of con-
munity. But this year, that’s who’s ahead, who’s losing ground, who’s dropping down. The League of Women Voters makes, deploy their assess-
ment of strengths and weakness in attempts to predict the outcome of the election. But who’s ahead, so-and-so would be the winner.” The normal per-
son would see them on ropes, but time passes incrementally, governed more by the rhythms of nature. Sunlight, moonlight, stars, rain, wind, and the changing seasons become your clock. It has been said that since the Le Conte oak—oak number one of the nine it sits first occupied the threatened trees in Moraga Avenue Grove—has been on Piedmont Avenue, and they are still up there. They are a visible example of the concern that many in our community feel about the fate of this special natural place.

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By MICHAEL BARGLOW

South Berkeley Cell Antenna Dispute: Maio Recuses Himself in Legal Action

A t the end of the May 20 Council meeting, Linda Maio recused herself from voting on any other items if you cannot make it at 7. You can help our cause by attending the Memorial Statue oak grove. More information is available at www.saveoaks.com.
Re-Imagining Berkeley as a Park

By JOHN N. ROBERTS

One of the most compelling visions for Berkeley’s parks included in Louise Mozingo and Marcia McNally’s study, “Making Linkages: A Plan for Berkeley’s Parks,” was that parks should be part of an integrated system of large and small open spaces linked together along the natural creek channels from the hills to the bay. Underlying this vision is the seemingly revolu-
tional idea that Berkeley and the surrounding greater region could be the primary infrastructure used to define the physical form of the built envi-
ronment. By the late 1960s, when city was being formed, an enlightened thinker imagined an urban structural system for this region, and the built envi-
ronment deliberately and dynamically balanced. And it could occur throughout the city, with all citizens having equal access to open spaces.

Berkeley did not choose that vision. Instead, Berkeley embraced a more pre-
pared. And it could occur throughout the city, with all citizens having equal access to open spaces.

In my opinion, the primary emphasis and challenge in the next few decades should be to create linkages among the parks and open spaces that will serve and blend the relatively dense urban development.

I na May 16 editorial on his depart-
ment’s plan to eradicate the leaf-roller moth, Mr. Secretary, you claim that LBAM spray is safe and has no impact on the environment. You say you choose to rely on facts. So let’s look at the facts.

Who is relying on unsound science and unsubstantiated and exaggerated claims? At least two courts in the state of Cali-
fornia have agreed during the past month that these are short-term exposure tests that do not establish the safety of LBAM. In both cases, the department abused its discretion in exempting the program from any environ-
mental review.

You call that LBAM is a “ravenous” pest that will destroy California agriculture and overrun the Central Valley. You say that your claims are based on solid science. You claim that the pesticide relied on short-term exposure tests for other organisms, assumed that these were documented in the toxicol-
gy database of the United States Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). You then tout the “six-pack” tox-
icology tests being done on the pesticides proposed to be sprayed over our commu-
nities that test only one ingredient and re-conceived pedes-
trian areas are just some of the ways in which additional space for retrofitting could be found. A new vocabulary of per-
meable materials and planting will be added to the public realm, a change from the impervious monoculture of our roads.

I think we should be focusing on our streets to create the system of green link-
ages and, in so doing, nurture a new form of street design. As Louise and Marcia’s study shows, most of our neighborhoods now enjoy access to the creeks. As Louise and Marcia’s study shows, most of our neighborhoods now enjoy access to the creeks. The streets are in the public domain and subject to public policy to reflect the values that the community holds for those open spaces that can be addressed effectively by green infrastructure. The development of more complex, layer-
ned uses of the streets will challenge the long-time accepted assumptions for the different uses.

You call that LBAM spray, and ignored the other ingre-
dients that made up more than 80% of the pesticide. Those other ingredients include carmagenes, mutagens, and chemicals that have shown that LBAM is just another of the many leaf-roller moths that do no harm to citrus, to salmon, or to plants in California. Respected scientists and other agencies had “delayed or de-
necessary?” (San Francisco Chronicle, Apr. 30)
RAPID BUS PLUS: WHAT SMOKESCREEN?

Editors, Daily Planet:

I am disturbed by the claim which has been made repeatedly by Friends of BRT that the proposed Rapid Bus Plus alternative is a smokescreen. There is no “smoke” in this proposal which is attempting to obscure the fact that this is a plan which attempts to create a workable alternative to lane removal on Telegraph, and welcomes collaboration from local planners. The contention, rather, is that whereas BRT may be appropriate for large metropolitan corridors with six-plus throughlanes and redundant parallel arterials nearby, that it is not appropriate for Telegraph which has only four throughlanes and which lacks nearby parallel redundancies. Furthermore, it is a plan which proposes that the same mode shift and emission reduction targets can be realistically achieved or exceeded with an alternate that does not create the significant congestion impacts that lane removal threatens in Berkeley and in the Oakland Telegraph area, impacts that many many Berkeley and Oakland residents reasonably believe are essentially non-mitigatable.

Joseph Stubbs

RULES OF THE ROAD

Editors, Daily Planet:

Nice letter (“Bike Safety: Liberal Hot Button Issue,” by H. Scott Prosterman, May 15), but may I add a safety tip? Bicyclists need to heed stop signs just as autos are supposed to. How many times have cyclists sailed through intersections and looked at you with the look like they are in the right. Also, just because you are on a “Bicycle Boulevard” doesn’t mean that cyclists can disobey the laws. Some days I feel like I will have a daredevil cyclist on the hood of my car and I will be the bad guy because I am the driver.

My son bicycles and I share the road. I get it. That is somebody’s loved one out there, but when they don’t obey traffic laws, they are taking their lives in their hands. I get angry when they put my safety and their own at risk. Helmets are nice, but when you are flying down Spruce Street and don’t stop at a stop sign, I don’t know what good they will do you.

Don’t just enforce helmet laws, enforce all traffic laws as they apply to bicyclists and autos. Just another point (or question), will the “hands free” cell phone laws apply to bicyclists?

Julie Dempster

CUTTING EXPENSES, NOT RAISING FARES

Editors, Daily Planet:

This is to thank Joyce Roy for her letter to the editor on May 15 regarding AC Transit. I couldn’t agree more. San Francisco recently purchased Hybrid Electric buses made...
Solar hot water heating systems are relatively easy to have installed, work very well year-round at preheating water before it enters your building’s water heating tank. This saves burning the fuel your system would normally use to bring the water up to temperature. Some systems have been in place since the 1970’s and are still functioning with very little maintenance. Solar water heating systems generally cost between $3,000 and $8,000 installed. There are also TAX CREDITS for solar hot water systems up to $2,000.

The most basic, and most energy-efficient system is a thermosiphon system that does not require electric pumps to operate. This system is passive, letting the sun heat the fluid until it rises to the top of the panels, where it flows into a tank or heat exchanger. From the heat exchanger, only the hottest water is skimmed off from the top of the tank as you draw down the hot water. This water can reach 150 °F., far hotter than what you need for a shower.

*Courtesy of: City of Berkeley www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/sustainable/

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Summer Camps

The Muni hybrid buses are essentially electric buses just like Muni’s electric trolley buses. Rather than get their electricity from overhead wires, they use a small diesel engine (5.9 liter Cummins ISB found in pickup trucks) to turn a generator that, together with traction batteries, supply the necessary electrical energy to move the bus through the streets of San Francisco. Muni’s hybrid buses are “series hybrids” meaning there is no mechanical connection between the engine and wheels: The engine turns a generator that produces electricity to power drive motors that propel the electric bus (note that “parallel” hybrid bus, more similar to a Toyota Prius, uses a blend of mechanical and electrical power to accelerate, rather than just electricity). The drive control system on Muni’s series hybrids operates the diesel engine at its optimum emission and fuel economy settings. Traction batteries supply energy for acceleration, hill climbing, and other peak load conditions. This reduces the diesel engine speed (rpm) fluctuations and helps minimize engine emissions and increasing fuel economy. A hybrid bus can also recover and store braking energy. During vehicle deceleration, the control system changes the traction motor into a generator. The traction motor/generator is then used to help slow the vehicle as the traction motor/generator stores braking energy in the traction batteries. This increases the vehicle’s fuel economy and brake life. Other major transit agencies including New York City, Boston, Washington D.C., Toronto, and Seattle have adopted hybrid bus technology within their respective public transportation systems.

The Muni hybrid buses, made by Daimler-Chrysler, cost roughly $500,000 (approximately $150,000 more than a conventional diesel bus). This Hybrid bus also gets 30 percent better fuel economy than a standard diesel bus.

To quote Joyce in her article: There is a used bus market. And it should be easy to sell them for a good price because the board president, Chris Peeples, has declared them “the best buses in the world.”

Chris Peeples apparently doesn’t spend a lot of time riding buses. In my opinion, the rattletrap, uncomfortable, badly designed, cheaply designed Van Hool buses are the worst buses of any age I have ridden on.

Ian Griffith

TAX INCREASES

Editors, Daily Planet:

I must be one of a select few to have been asked to participate in two of Berkeley’s City Council’s marketing surveys about “what’s the most popular way to market” tax increases. And “which are the most dire consequences we can use to scare the voters.”

Am I the only one in this city who finds these surveys offensive? As well as the fact that my tax dollars were used to pay for them? Am I the only one who expects my City Council to determine what the dollar needs of the city are and then stand up before the voters, without artifice, and explain to me why the dollars are necessary?

As a 30-year citizen of Berkeley, am I the only one who remembers all of the claims of the dire results that will occur if this next tax increase is not passed? How many library initiatives, firehouse initiatives, schools initiatives, etc. will there be to save Berkeley from these horrible consequences?

For one am I the one of the Berkeley taxpayers who demands to see a plan put before the voters about how Berkeley government can be stream lined, made efficient, and about how off-the-chart labor and benefit expenses can be brought under control. This is my prerequisite before I will consider any tax increase.

David Sudikoff

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LETTERS

Continued from Page Eighteen

Medi-Cal, and I hope it is successful.

My daughter is severely handicapped and depends on SSI and Medi-Cal. Already the reimbursement rate to doctors who take Medi-Cal is extremely low, and I fear decreasing it even more will mean that my daughter won’t be able to find doctors generous enough to treat her for such a low fee.

What I don’t understand is why the governor and legislators are so loathe to increase taxes. It seems the obvious solution to me. I would be happy to pay more taxes so that my daughter and others could get proper medical care. I also want school children to have music and art teachers and after-school recreation programs; I want our libraries, fire and police departments to be fully staffed; I want more and safer bicycle lanes; I would like more public transportation. And I’m willing to help pay for them through taxes! Isn’t this part of what being a good citizen is all about?

Kathleen Whitney
Oakland

WILLARD SCHOOL

Editors, Daily Planet:

I am sick and tired reading about how bad Willard is. Riya Bhattacharjee has never had anything good to say about us. Instead of investigating the reality here at Willard, she just rehashes old news about our ex-vice principal and reports on faulty data. Had she spoken with our principal about the Sunshine Ordinance being expanded to the public schools is an excellent one—though one which could never happen. If the schools were actually held accountable, and the public knew more about what goes on behind the scenes, they wouldn’t fund them. So it’s in the schools’ best interest to stonewall—just like Willard School does so ably. Keep up the good work. We’re lucky to have such an excellent local independent publication in an era of media mediocrity.

Richard Fabry
Point Richmond

EDITOR’S NOTE: This letter is answered by the Executive Editor online in the “Editor’s Back Fence” column at berkeleydailyplanet.com.

EDITOR’S BACK FENCE

Editors, Daily Planet:

I really appreciate your “Editor’s Back Fence” experiment on your website and can see its validity. It gives the Planet a forum to set the record straight. Your staff does a lot of work in putting together each story and that first letter regarding Willard School demonstrates that.

So instead of letting an insipid letter go unchallenged, you made your points—points well earned with a lot of reporting time, sweat and effort.

And your point about the Sunshine Ordinance being expanded to the public schools is an excellent one—though one which could never happen. If the schools were actually held accountable, and the public knew more about what goes on behind the scenes, they wouldn’t fund them. So it’s in the schools’ best interest to stonewall—just like Willard School does so ably. Keep up the good work. We’re lucky to have such an excellent local independent publication in an era of media mediocrity.

Sharon Arthur
6th grade teacher

A PLEDGE OF OUR OWN

Editors, Daily Planet:

On April 24, two busloads of Berkeley parents went on a road trip to Sacramento. Our destination: a rally at the Capitol Building, where we joined parents and students from all over California: Riverside, San Diego, San Mateo, Fremont, Davis, Alameda…we all joined together to call our legislators to “flush the budget, not our kids.” It was here that we learned that, in the midst of our huge budget deficit, all of the Senate and Assembly Republicans but one (Roger Niello) have signed a pledge that they would never, never, never agree to raise any taxes. Well, we have a Pledge of Our Own—to invest in our kids and our future.

As you know, our governor has proposed a budget which lops $4.8 billion dollars off of the public education budget. Since our state (which, by the way, is the seventh richest entity in the entire world) already allots $2,000 less per pupil than every other state in the country, you can see the impact that would have. And, by the way— it’s tax deductible!

Christine Staples

Continued on Page Twenty-Five
THURSDAY, MAY 22

THEATER

Willard Dramatic Arts “Turf” A performance by students without the experience of middle school, Thur. and Fri. at 7 p.m., at 924 Gilman St., between Allston and Market.Tickets are $16-$18. 525-9926.

Ticket

9th Annual Berkeley High School Film Festival A film at 7 p.m. at Florence Schweninger Little Theater, 2701 Allston Way, between MLK and Milton. Tickets are $5-$10.

Tickets are $17-$20.

8 p.m., Sun. at 2 p.m. at Altarena Playhouse, 2245 Telegraph Ave., at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $10-$15.

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Berkeley Early Music Festival and Exhibition Begins June 3

By IRA STEINGROOT
Special to the Planet

When I first became a jazz fan (short for fanatic) in high school, I saw European classical music as something less than following the events of Kafka's life so often. In a long string of over 30 scenes, the cast of 12 reveals the ongoing obsessions and frustrations of the great author from Prague, occasionally heightened by hallucinations like tableaux in his tales.

In Kafka's tales are notoriously difficult to adapt to the stage or screen. Steven Berkoff's stage productions ("Metamorphosis" with Baryshnikov as the bug) and films of "The Trial" by Orson Welles and "In the Penal Colony" by Raúl Ruiz have taken a sometimes oblique perspective, sometimes a very literal one, regarding the original stories.

"My stories are full of autobiographical significance," Meidav's Kafka says, which for the writer himself may have been one reason he instructed his papers to be burned at his death. Where the scenes come closest to allowing Kafka's fictional grotesquery to act on the anecdotes of his life, stylizing them, the play works best. Many scenes, though, delve unwittingly into theough of clichés from literary potboilers and biopics about tormented artists (recently burlesqued in another Ruiz film, Klimt).

The relentless chronology of the life also adds to the sumnerness of tone and rhythm that often plagues any long performance of a string of brief episodes. Meidav humorously thanks her colleagues for their editoriwork, sparing the audience a much longer show. It would be interesting to watch a different arrangement of some of these scenes, perhaps with newer versions of some left out, with a different organizing principle—something more fantastic, dreamlike?—than following the events of Kafka's life so often.

Some reflections come from suggestive moments: entering the theater to find the writer's parents (Jaene Leonard and Remi Barron) in bed; seeing the streams of old photographs between scenes projected above Don Cate's set; watching Jaene Leonard's comic turn as a Lola Montez-like actress bearding the maladroit Franz at a bistro table, a cabaret act in itself; and Brian O'Connor taking on multiple roles—once moments of a crude, Jew-baiting soldier, the next a Kaballistic doorkeeper in black robes and periwig—with Remi Barron, alternating with the most unthreatening Franz as his father, equally convincing.

Franz Kafka's Love Life was performed about a decade or so ago by a London company, this year that group of singers and instrumentalists will present Venezia delle strade ai Palazzi, a combination of theater, lighting, costumes and Baroque gesture applied to the music of Claudio Monteverdi and Francesco Manelli, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 4 and 5, at 8 p.m., in Zellerbach Playhouse.

The semi-finalists and finalists in the American Bach Soloists and Henry I. Goldberg International Young Artists Competition will perform on Thursday, June 5, p.m., and Friday, June 6, at 3 p.m., in Hertz Hall. As revelatory as Bach's Cello Suites or Morales, with counterpuntal Paul Flitg.

One of the hits of the 2006 Festival was the performance of Baroque Carnival by Le Poème Harmonique. This year that group of singers and instrumentalists will present Venezia delle strade ai Palazzi, a combination of theater, lighting, costumes and Baroque gesture applied to the music of Claudio Monteverdi and Francesco Manelli, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 4 and 5, at 8 p.m., in Zellerbach Playhouse.

The relentless chronology of the life also adds to the sumnerness of tone and rhythm that often plagues any long performance of a string of brief episodes. Meidav humorously thanks her colleagues for their editoriwork, sparing the audience a much longer show. It would be interesting to watch a different arrangement of some of these scenes, perhaps with newer versions of some left out, with a different organizing principle—something more fantastic, dreamlike?—than following the events of Kafka's life so often.
MUSIC AND DANCE

New Century Chamber Orchestra, with Rachel Barton-Pine, guest concertmaster, at 8 p.m. at St. John’s Presbyterian Church, 2272 College Ave. Tickets are $28-54. 415-557-1110. www.ncco.org

Berkeley Festival: Le Poeme Harmonique music by Monteverdi and Manelli at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $5-$14. 525-5054. www.ashkenaz.com

Eric Swidmeran & Terrence Breeden with Macario’s Jig at 11 p.m. at 2120 Allston Way. Cost is $15. 525-9926. www.frijolshanddrums.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

MUSIC

OAKLAND

Brookside Rep “Rez Fafafa’s Laughing House,” based on stories by Rez Fafafa, at 8 p.m. 5720 Telegraph Ave, Oakland. Tickets are $10-$15. 415-430-6598. www.stonesoupimprov.com

Emam & Friends at 8 p.m. at Hertz Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $34-$49. 925-278-2202.

Chaplin's Hounds with music by Monteverdi and Manelli at 7 p.m. at Ashkenaz. Cost is $15.

New Century Chamber Orchestra featuring Sila & the Afrofunk Experience with music by Eritrean-born artist Mahader Hailu, at 8 p.m. at Guerra Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave at Cedar. Tickets are $34-$49. www.newcenturychamberorchesra.org

Emam & Friends at 8 p.m. at Hertz Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $34-$49. 925-278-2202.

Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave. Cost is $10.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

CHILDREN

Oakland School for the Arts “Once Upon this Island” at 7 p.m. at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Oakland. Tickets are $15. www.ongpointendance@gmail.com

Bay Area Classical Harmonies on stage at 7 p.m. at 208 Arlington Ave. Kensington. Tickets are $12-$15, children’s tickets are $5. 526-9146.

Junto’s with Omar Sosa & John Santos with the American Allegro of La Peña’s 33rd Anniversary, at 8 p.m. at La Peña Cultural Center. Cost is $15. 525-4951. www.lapena.org

Berkeley Festival: Piffaro, The Renaissance Band at 8 p.m. at Hertz Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $34-49. www.piffaro.org

Bay Area Blues Society Cabaret of All Stars at 5 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak at 10th St., Oakland. Cost is $15.

Bay Area Blues Society Cabaret of All Stars at 5 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak at 10th St., Oakland. Cost is $15.

Stephanie Crawford and Trio at 8 p.m. at the Jazzschool. Cost is $15.

Hurricane Sam and the Hotrods at 8 p.m. at Secular Man of All Stars at 5 p.m. at 1720 Ashby Ave., through June 22. Tickets are $8.

Music by MONTEVERDI AND MANELLI at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $19, $19 for children 16 and under. 642-9988. www.calperformances.net

Berkeley Festival “Le Poeme Harmonique” music by Monteverdi and Manelli at 8 p.m. Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Campus. Tickets are $34, 49. www.calperformances.net

Chalice Consort, a new Renaissance ensemble, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph of Arimathea, 2534 Durant Ave. Tickets are $15, children’s tickets are $7.

Berkeley Festival “Missa Soprano Ecco si beato giorno” at 3 p.m. at First Congregational Church. Tickets are $56. 415-430-5698. www.stonesoupimprov.com

READINGS AND LECTURES

Berkeley Festival “The Pope and the Duke: The Rediscovery of a Masterpiece” at 3 p.m. at Wheeler Auditorium, UC Campus. Free. 45-5373.

Poetry Flash with F.D. Reeve, Jake Fields & Adele Foye at 7 p.m. at Cody’s Books 2201 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are $8.

Bay Area Poets Coalition open reading from 3 to 5 p.m. at Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St. Park on the street, in Lodging parking lot. 527-9905. poetics@iol.com

MUSIC AND DANCE

The 5th Annual Berkeley World Music Festival with music by African, Latin, Indian, and East Asia, at 7:30 p.m. 525-4951. www.ashkenaz.com

Curtis Bump with Keith Mctarner on bass, at 8 p.m. at Jupiter. 841-4272.

Amahd Jamal at 8 and 10 p.m. at Yoshis at Jack London Square. Cost is $28.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

CHILDREN

Los Amiguitos de La Peña with Joe and Lisa Orton, at 7 p.m. at Berke- ma Milano. Tickets are $6-$9. 524-9988.

THEATRE

LAURENTIA

Altaarena Playhouse “On Golden Pond” Fri. at 8 p.m. and Sat. at 7 p.m. at 1409 High St., Alameda. Tickets are $18, $15, through June 27. Tickets are $12. 533-6697. 415-430-5698. www.stonesoupimprov.com

THEATER

Berkeley Festival: La Renaissance Band The Hotrods at 8 p.m. at the Jazzschool. Cost is $15.

Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave. Cost is $10.

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MUSIC AND DANCE

In Pointe Youth Dance Company Theatricals on stage at 8 p.m. at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Oakland. Tickets are $15. 526-9146.
Poets Schevill, Garcia, Starck Read Monday at Moe’s

By KEN BULLOCK
Special to the Planet

Poets James Schevill and Luis Garcia, both Berkeley natives, will be joined by Clemens Starck from the Oregon coast for a reading on Monday at Moe’s Books on Telegraph, 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 2, as part of the Monday At Moe’s series. Admission is free.

“Luis Garcia gave a reading here recently,” said Owen Hill of Moe’s, who coordinates the series, “and did such an excellent job, we invited him back immediately. Lu approached me with the idea of all three poets reading together.”

Schevill wrote his first poem as a teenager in Switzerland, before heading back to the United States to attend UC Berkeley. Garcia, who taught at UC Berkeley and Stanford, spent time in Nazi-occupied Europe where he learned German while working as an intern for the English Information Agency. When he returned to the U.S., he attended UC Berkeley and Stan- ford, where he taught for 10 years.

Garcia met poet Robert Creeley “serendipitously” at the Berkeley Poetry Conference in 1965, later visiting him when he taught at SF State, living in Bolinas.

“Out of that friendship came so much of the song, I feel, the song in his head,” Garcia said. “I have a history of failure and the singular hope that words will clarify my life.”

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

Continued on Page Twenty-Four

Shotgun Presents a New ‘Beowulf’

By KEN BULLOCK
Special to the Planet

The dressing of the stage—Ashby Stage, that is—says it all in advance of curtain. With a platform that makes the audience feel savagely ringside or fashionably ringside; a long counter below the apron with microphones set for a panel, backed by a sextet at the rear; a bank of fans as a wall behind—the sound neither hard nor soft; a mixture of words in clean English poesy is the first truly modern version, which UC Press put out over a half century back, by the now-neglected poet Laureate of Scotland, Edwin Morgan, who conferred the acid flavor of his World War II experiences to this fighting saga of eld.

Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage (A Songplay) reads the show’s title. Banana, Bag & Bodice’s cofounder, Jason Craig, has written the book and the lyrics, besides handling taking on the role of the hero, who poses in silhouette, then appears by slicing his way through the screen, while choreographer Anna Ishida and Shade Troha (of Killing My Lobster) wail and wheel in their channaille like Vegas Valkyries or Betsy Berkeley Berserkers in Kahlua Black’s costumery on R. Black’s striking set, lit by Miranda Hardy with Brendan West’s sound design.

Dave Malloy has put together a combo, the Heorot Band (including musical saw), that plays the gamut from klezmer to (appropriately enough) snatches of heavy metal. Malloy also doubles, borne onstage to know your own uses! along with the lure of literature, and the singular hope that words will clarify my life.

His poems have a reflective, sometimes elegaic sense—“Approaching 80, a man starts/counting backwards”—with a wry humor, references to Zen and Taoism, Chinese and Russian history, and the urban, rural and seaboard landscapes where he’s lived and worked.

Don’t ask stupid questions. Throw a quick glance over one shoulder, throw salt over the other. Soon, you shall speak perfect Russian—and sung, so fluently, not even your comrades will understand.

—“Studying Russian on Company Time”

Continued on Page Twenty-Four
Incumbents Lead Fundraising in Oakland City Council Races

Continued from Page One

funding totals would put him near or at the top in campaign contributions in the contest among the 15 candidates for the eight District 3 seats. This year, council members are lumping their efforts together.

De La Fuente’s two other challengers, Councilmember Wilson Riles, and small business owner Beverly Blythe, did not report contributions. Their campaigns are not expected to be competitive in the race.

In Oakland’s third district, long-time incumbent Nancy Nadel was also ahead of her challengers in fundraising, reporting $46,124 raised in the last two months, $65,780 since the beginning of the year. Covenant House Development Director and political newcomer Sean Sullivan, a former housing organizer with the Community Action Network, raised $29,180 in contributions in the last two months. $48,073 since the beginning of the year.

District 3 Oakland School Board Member Greg Hodge, who was expect- ed to be defeated, raised $7,000 to Nadel in the June 3 election, is trailing badly in fundraising, reporting $5,932, $21,900 since the beginning of the year.

The results were similar in Council District 4, where incumbent Councilmember Larry Reid started fundraising late but quickly took the lead. Reid reported $23,615 since January 1, 2008, $11,958 since the beginning of the year. His opponent, Express Oakland newsletter editor and English teacher Clifford Gilmore, raised $8,960 in the last two months, $13,145 since the beginning of the year.

In District 1, incumbent Jane Brunner reported $42,535 in contributions in the last two months, $12,520 since the beginning of the year. North Oakland neighborhood activist Patrick McCoullough, her opponent, did not yet file a campaign finance report for the current period.

With-at-large council incumbent Henry Chang choosing not to run for re-

preening, posturing or sulking in his tent, playing with Action Hero figurines. But they aren’t assiduous anywhere around the year, until the full blossom of action begins, which is only fitfully revealed. There’s a lot more trash-talk in the ring than in real life. One might think the spectators would be the gladiators, enjoiyng something of the charm and craziness of the olden farces—well, not the mimes and acrobats, maybe, but the middle-aged hobbits and the like, who might remember them with the glasp the spiccopiy evisored upon unlike upon fable and the like, with the likes of Ernie Kovacs and Sid Caesar, or the word-hoards of Lord Buckley and Stan Freeberg expended on same. Or that the limited animation cut-up, “Fractured Fairytales”

complex, so the fun of it—and perhaps its sub-

stance—will grow during the run (and in the New York version to follow). But for the moment, despite delirious Dane pro-

nouncements, there’s no reason to expect that City Hall will supply voters with truly unbiased infor-

mation about Berkeley’s money troubles. Nor is there any reason to expect that City Hall will appear on the November ballot. Given the Bates administration’s contempt for the voters, it’s likely that the issue will be sidetracked by the debate over the county’s money troubles.

If McCain is defeated, what Democrat- ic appeals will fill the vacuum created by the misrepresen-
tation science to the citizens of Cal-

ifornia? In fact, East Bay residents have mused aloud for a long time about the Bush administration’s disregard for science. Only recently, though, has the Bush administration made an issue of the conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Bush administration is accused of underfunding independent scientists and citizens of California who have been working to protect the environment.

In northern California, for example, the Department of Agriculture has ignored the findings of independent scientists who have been studying the effects of spraying pesticides on the environment. The department has also prevented scientists from publishing their research. This has caused a conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has been trying to protect the environment, while the Department of Agriculture has been trying to protect the agricultural industry. The result is that the environment is being damaged by the spraying of pesticides, and the public is being misled about the effects of these sprays.

In sum, there is a serious problem with the Department of Agriculture’s handling of science. The department is ignoring the findings of independent scientists who have been working to protect the environment. This has caused a conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has been trying to protect the environment, while the Department of Agriculture has been trying to protect the agricultural industry.

The public is being misled about the effects of spraying pesticides on the environment. This is because the Department of Agriculture is not allowing independent scientists to publish their research. This has caused a conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has been trying to protect the environment, while the Department of Agriculture has been trying to protect the agricultural industry. The result is that the environment is being damaged by the spraying of pesticides, and the public is being misled about the effects of these sprays.

In conclusion, there is a serious problem with the Department of Agriculture’s handling of science. The department is ignoring the findings of independent scientists who have been working to protect the environment. This has caused a conflict between the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has been trying to protect the environment, while the Department of Agriculture has been trying to protect the agricultural industry. The result is that the environment is being damaged by the spraying of pesticides, and the public is being misled about the effects of these sprays.
Why aren’t still water restrictions imposed on all waste waters? As usual, it’s all about money, power and politics. Only 10 percent of the very largest corporate farmers are required to waste water subsides that keep their water so cheap and plentiful they think nothing of wasting more than $400 million on the Central Valley use around 70 percent of the water. These powerful corporate farmers, like Southside San Pablo, receive government water subsidies that keep their water so cheap and plentiful they think nothing of wasting in excess of $400 million on the Central Valley. Do they ever think of the $400 toilet seat” ring a bell? These wealthy agro-estates pay about 2 percent of what EMUD customers pay for their water. A Group study found that just twenty-seven corporate farms received water subsidies while the total value of these water subsidies has hovered at around $400 million. Citizens can’t help but wonder if government water subsidies promote wasteful corporate farmers to waste gallons of water for every drop we save.

Craig Collins

finance support for city services as well as local schools. The project in question is the so-called Whole Foods development on San Pablo Avenue at Mission Street.

The proposed project is on land owned by the University of California. It is the intent of the developer to build, in addition to a grocery store operator on one portion of the development and to build what is described as a “BRT Stop” on the other (Monroe Street and to lease this to a separate entity. Whether this is the best use for this property or not is debatable. There is a certain that the property will still be owned by the state of California and as such, will be exempt from paying property taxes. There will be little sales tax generated, since food is not taxed. There will be no transfer of generated revenue to any local entity or portion either. Other than increased traffic congestion, noise and pollution, there is little for the city or county to tax, and no reason there is no property tax ben-efit for our struggling schools.

 Allies at Albany Village provides our schools with gifted students who live in dwellings that do not pay prop-erty taxes. We are spending millions more to save Albany if the land upon which it stands is sold as surplus property by the state of California for commercial purposes. It would then contribute directly to vital city services and provide much needed revenue to support agencies and programs.

The prudent course for the city of Albany to take would be to change the city’s rules to allow for a non-profit developmen but only after this land is converted to private property. In a different approach to the same end, Albey City Council would have to decide whose needs are best served by private development on public property. In a democratic society, this should be put to the vote of the community. Albany Village would be better for mobility-impaired or elderly residents he would add needed diver- sity to the community. Tony is committed to the urban progres-sive cause and single payer health care. For the Kuehl’s SB 840, a healthy environment, jobs and education. He also has a depth of character and a cheerful but unintimidated vision. On the Telegraph/BART corridor—meaning shorter rides, no transfers, notoriously inaccessible, and rough-riding, Van Hool buses with state-of-the-art Orion hybrids. These genuinely “low-floor” buses have floor-mounted seats for easy access. And their hybrid powertrains offer smooth performance and much less noise.

Alan also asked whether Rapid Bus Plus would be better for mobility-impaired or elderly passengers. Absolutely! Unlike AC Transit’s Rapid Bus Plus, Rapid Bus Plus on this corridor—meaning shorter stops near the walk to the nearest stop.

We will also replace AC Transit’s notoriously inaccessible, and rough-riding, Van Hool buses with state-of-the-art Orion hybrids. These genuinely “low-floor” buses have floor-mounted seats for easy access. And their hybrid powertrains offer smooth performance and much less noise.

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Tony is a Richmond resident he would add needed diversity to the State Assembly.

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In Los Angeles County alone, there are some 21 Rapid Bus lines—eight rolled out when the lax walk to the nearest stop.

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The coming week is likely to offer more in the way of personal reward than many are expecting, but that which is most valuable may not easily be recognized at this time. Indeed, that which is hidden is sure to be most prized — and it may take some people quite some time before they realize just how much they have gained. Young and old alike are likely to enjoy renewed enthusiasm, and most will enjoy lifted spirits — especially after a chance encounter or unplanned accomplishment.

Family affairs are sure to take on increased significance; developments at home and abroad are sure to be related in some way, and will have a direct or indirect bearing on what goes on between family members. It’s a good week to keep in touch with world affairs.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 6)** — You may not be feeling in sync as the week opens, but it’s only a matter of time. Make some plans. (June 7-June 20) — Your fate may be in the hands of someone else at this time, but that is no reason to fret. Indeed, you may be better off now than ever before.

**CANCER (June 21-July 7)** — You’ll enjoy your turn in the spotlight, but when it’s time to move on you must surely do so. (July 8-July 22) — Though the cost may be high, you are sure it is worth it — but are you sure that others will agree with you? Only time will tell.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 7)** — The way you know if you’re on the right track is to look in the right direction — and subconsciously you know which way that is. (Aug. 8-Aug. 22) — Consider yourself lucky, and don’t discount those things that seem to come naturally to you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 7)** — Expenses must be considered before you finalize your plans and give the go-ahead. (Sept. 8-Sept. 22) — Young or old, you’ll have a great deal to be excited about — but are you sure that others will agree with you? Only time will tell.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 7)** — You can count on others to help out when you are in need, despite certain existing tensions. (Oct. 8-Oct. 22) — You’re doing it all over again — or so you think. In reality, you have a chance to make subtle changes that will make things seem new.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 7)** — You may be used to doing things very much your own way, but nevertheless a change is in the offing. (Nov. 8-Nov. 21) — Travel may be in the picture, but don’t be hasty or unprepared. Be sure to tend to certain pressing duties before you leave.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 7)** — Some things that you’ve only recently been able to see are likely to change in the offing. (Dec. 8-Dec. 21) — It may be difficult for you to get all the information you need, but your daring spirit will lead you to a major new adventure.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 6)** — You may be challenging a legend or two — no wonder some people aren’t willing to believe! (Jan. 7-Jan. 19) — A question of fate and propriety is likely to arise before the week is out. You want to be sure that you’re on the right side.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 3)** — You can transform a sadness into something to cheer about — but that is not easy to do. (Feb. 4-Feb. 18) — What you read and watch will be of great importance to you in little time. Be sure to remember the most important facts and figures.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 5)** — Though you may be far from home, you can be confident that the people who count are with you in spirit. (March 6-March 20) — You may be pushing the limits in some ways, but while the stars are with you, there is no reason not to go for broke in any way you can.

**ARIES (March 21-April 4)** — You’re likely to face a starting challenge early in the week, but you will face it head on. (April 5-April 19) — Be sure to take advantage of a financial offer before it is withdrawn for good. Don’t hesitate when it’s made available.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 5)** — You’re likely to secure a great deal of money simply by speaking your mind up-front and honestly. (May 6-May 20) — You’ll be on hand to witness an important development at work — or in your personal life. You’ll be at home as well as at the workplace.
Complete the grids so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1-9 inclusively. The answers to these puzzles can be found on the following page.

"MY OTHER NEWSPAPER IS THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET."

"Of course the New York Times covers the world. But nothing covers my personal planet like the Berkeley Daily Planet."

- Elmore Wuffle
GET FUZZY

Sudokus from the preceding page.

**Answers to the Sudoku Puzzles:**

**1. Solution:**

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

**2. Solution:**

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

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Continued from Page Twenty-Five

the Republican Congress didn’t try to fix the problem for six years, but now we have a Democratic-majority Congress that hasn’t bothered to fix the problem either.

The problem, of course, is that the Electoral College system enables the candidate with fewer votes than his opponent to take office. Under the current system, a million and one more California citizens could vote for the Democratic candidate than the Republican and it would—

Don’t let our country’s reputation as the best in the world affect the outcome any more than if the Democrat won by just one vote. One million votes would be discounted. In Wyoming, voters’ ballots count four times as much as California’s.

During the last eight years, this problem has cost us $3 trillion dollars, nearly 5,000 lives, and over 40,000 severe injuries, plus the loss of our country’s reputation as the best in the world.

Fixing intelligence to start a war is treason, pure and simple. That is what Dick Cheney did.

Richard B. Cheney knew there was no evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but he wanted a war in Iraq anyway, perhaps in part to benefit his company Halliburton and its subsidiary, Brown and Root. And he got his war.

But that war, in addition to costing the lives of over 4,000 good Americans military men and women, has totally destroyed the Iraqi infrastructure, has resulted in the deaths of over 1,000,000 Iraqi people, and according the scholarly analysis of Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Walgenbach, America has spent over $3 trillion in the long run. The United States will be paying for this war for decades.

Dick Cheney ordered gross violations of human rights, including illegal detentions of alleged enemy combatants without due process of any kind. He ordered that prisoners be abused with methods of torture (including water boarding) universal acknowledged to be in violation of the Geneva Conventions to which we are a signatory.

And he and President Bush have completely ruined the good name of the United States of America around the world. I just want this man to be brought to account, and removed from power.

Guruprem Singh Khalsa

**Letters to the Editor**

**Editors, Daily Planet:**

Instead of looking down upon the young men and women who sit on the street or in the park, look down at us (with a smile). Look at the talented artists, musicians, writers, story tellers and et cetera. Take to the time to talk to us, ask us what are dreams are. Then those with means have to make the decision if they want to make more ordinances or actually help us accomplish those dreams.

Also on the same subject: The state of California does not require the College Internship Program here in Berkeley will be wrapping its first school year. For those who don’t know, CIP is a social skills training program for young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome; as well the organization helps put people in college or job settings. The catch is its only open to those who can afford over $37,000 a semester.

There are youth on the street who have Asperger’s, and the syndrome is the only thing keeping them on the street. Imagine the social impact that would occur if organizations with deep pockets, and their friends with deep pockets, reached out to the less fortunate young men and women who have the drive to work, or study, but are just blocked by Asperger’s or other such relatively simple hindrances.

Treating poverty has to be done in a modern way, rather than just exacting anti-loitering, anti-smoking, anti-this-and-that ordinances to sweep young people away, and hide the problem of impoverished youth. Many young adults want to achieve a college degree, or get a job. Helping to make those goals a reality is far better than issuing out citation after citation after citation.

The Electoral College should be fixed or removed. We need to turn the United States of America into a democratic republic.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Editors, Daily Planet:

The College Internship Program here in Berkeley is wrapping up its first school year. For those who don’t know, CIP is a social training program for young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome; as well the organization helps put people in college or job settings. The catch is its only open to those who can afford over $37,000 a semester.

Instead of looking down upon the young men and women who sit on the street or in the park, look down at us (with a smile). Look at the talented artists, musicians, writers, story tellers and et cetera. Take to the time to talk to us, ask us what are dreams are. Then those with means have to make the decision if they want to make more ordinances or actually help us accomplish those dreams.

Also on the same subject: The state of California does not require the College Internship Program here in Berkeley will be wrapping its first school year. For those who don’t know, CIP is a social skills training program for young adults with Asperger’s Syndrome; as well the organization helps put people in college or job settings. The catch is its only open to those who can afford over $37,000 a semester.

There are youth on the street who have Asperger’s, and the syndrome is the only thing keeping them on the street. Imagine the social impact that would occur if organizations with deep pockets, and their friends with deep pockets, reached out to the less fortunate young men and women who have the drive to work, or study, but are just blocked by Asperger’s or other such relatively simple hindrances.

Treating poverty has to be done in a modern way, rather than just exacting anti-loitering, anti-smoking, anti-this-and-that ordinances to sweep young people away, and hide the problem of impoverished youth. Many young adults want to achieve a college degree, or get a job. Helping to make those goals a reality is far better than issuing out citation after citation after citation.

The Electoral College should be fixed or removed. We need to turn the United States of America into a democratic republic.

Bruce Joffe

Piedmont

**IRAQ OCCUPATIONS**

Editors, Daily Planet:

The continuing immoral, illegal occupation of Iraq by the United States is too costly in lives and quality of life in Iraq and here. With more money being spent on what is left unaddressed, and the many enemies it sends them out to kill and be killed, war spending draining federal money so that social needs go unaddressed, and the many enemies it makes for us around the world, it is time to defund the Iraq occupation now.

Frances Hillyard

Albany

**CHENEY**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Fixing intelligence to start a war is treason, pure and simple. That is what Dick Cheney did.

Richard B. Cheney knew there was no evidence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but he wanted a war in Iraq anyway, perhaps in part to benefit his company Halliburton and its subsidiary, Brown and Root. And he got his war.

But that war, in addition to costing the lives of over 4,000 good American military men and women, has totally destroyed the Iraqi infrastructure, has resulted in the deaths of over 1,000,000 Iraqi people, and according the scholarly analysis of Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Walgenbach, America has spent over $3 trillion in the long run. The United States will be paying for this war for decades.

Dick Cheney ordered gross violations of human rights, including illegal detentions of alleged enemy combatants without due process of any kind. He ordered that prisoners be abused with methods of torture (including water boarding) universal acknowledged to be in violation of the Geneva Conventions to which we are a signatory.

And he and President Bush have completely ruined the good name of the United States of America around the world. I just want this man to be brought to account, and removed from power.

Guruprem Singh Khalsa

**MORE LETTERS AT BERKELEYDAILYPLANET.COM**
quality care can’t wait

Home healthcare workers in Alameda County believe that those who provide care to the elderly and disabled should be able to get decent healthcare themselves.

But COUNTY SUPERVISOR KEITH CARSON refuses to make healthcare for caregivers a priority. And if they can’t get care when they’re sick, it jeopardizes the lives of those they serve.

Carson says he respects caregivers and those they serve, yet he stands against their right to quality care. If Carson doesn’t work with caregivers, they will be left UNINSURED and forced on WAITING LISTS, even after caring for their clients for more than a year.

Call Supervisor Carson and tell him to respect caregivers.
Don’t let him jeopardize the well-being of this crucial workforce.

CALL SUPERVISOR CARSON TODAY!
1-866-544-5740

Our seniors, disabled and their caregivers can’t wait!

Tyrone Freeman,
President

440 Grand Ave., Suite 250
Oakland, CA 94610
For more information, call 888-373-3018
**QUADRIPLEGIC MAN**

Needs an attendant/care provider for personal care, who can follow my instructions. Domestic/computer skills highly desired. Observation training provided. Minimum 2 yrs FT exp working in the healthcare industry, ethical, scholarly articles or books; exceptional writing skills. For more information, please contact: ronald_washington@att.net

**ARCHIVE INTERNSHIP**

(Paid), Work with director of former international nonprofit and others in her home & blocks N of UC Berkeley. Hours negotiable, 6am-9pm. 7 days a week. P/VH On weekends shift required. Must be reliable, organized, accurate with details. MsWord/Excel & Eudora email fluent. Scent & smoke free. Great view and free food. E-mail: archivelp@holybro.org

**Estate Sale**

Saturday May 31st 8-3 p.m.
1402 Cornell Ave.
Berkeley
65 Years of Accumulation

**Garage Sales**

**THE CELLAR THRIFT SHOP!**
Clothing Housewares Books and lots of etc!

**Help Wanted**

**CALIFORNIA NURSES ASSOCIATION** seeks UNION EDUCATOR/RESEARCHER, Oakland base w/extensive travel. Requires:
Prof degree plus advanced degree in health law or health policy; Degree/proven expertise Ethical theory-health ethics; Min. 2 yrs FT working w/labor union of health care workers, extensive knowledge of legal, ethical, educational issues facing Nurses; Exp. teaching medical issues-health ethics; Substantial background international healthcare industry, ethical issues. Exc. writing skills w/published scholarly articles or books; Email Res/CV/References & Sample outline 1day session: Research/Resume @calnurses.org. No calls

**TAU HOUSE**, Private Residence Hall Resident Assistants Applicant required to be registered student, previous work experience have good people and communication skills. Part time position Pay includes room/board & stipend email gammum@ucsd.edu or visit tauhouse.org

**Teacher AIDE/Preschool**
Near UC Berkeley, In AM 510-548-9121

**WANTED:**
29 Serious People to Work From Home using a computer. Up to $1,500-$5,000/PT/FT www.earnwhileathome.com Enter lydiamalit@yahoo.com into Search For Jobs to see one of our many members.

**Instruction**

DANCE & FITNESS CLASSES IN BERKELEY

**Volunteers Needed**

VOLUNTEER as an Adult Literacy Tutor at Berkeley Reads, the Adult Literacy Program of the Berkeley Public Library. Please join us at the next Orientation, Tuesday, June 24th 5:30-7pm and Tutor Training, Saturday, June 28th, 10am-4pm. At the Central Library, 3rd floor electronic classroom 2000 Kittridge Berkeley 94704 For more information please call at 510.981.6299.
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MILLIGAN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
2823 WOOLSEY STREET • BERKELEY, CA 94705 • (510) 652-4248

I remember in the early seventies an older gentleman came in to a store we were remodeling on Market Street in San Francisco. I was working for someone else back then. I talked with him a bit— he was talking for work. Turned out he was eighty five. I asked him if he had been a carpenter all of his life. His response, “Not yet.” He didn’t laugh. He wasn’t kidding.

...to here I am now, nearly forty years later. I haven’t been a concrete contractor all my life— yet. But I have been doing concrete work of all kinds here in the East Bay for quite some time. Whether your project is a few square feet of sidewalk, an entire foundation, an engineered retaining wall, or hill—side drainage construction, you are invited to give me a call.

Thank you.
Bill Milligan
Quality concrete construction since 1976

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THE GREEN PAGE

Coming Soon in Color to the Daily Planet.
Information and valuable resources to help you lessen your carbon footprint.
❖ Green Business Directory
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To participate on any level, call Jason at 510-841-5600 ext/120 or email jbradley@berkeleydailyplanet.com

Feel the urgency yet? Get involved!

THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET
May 29 - June 4, 2008
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Candidacy Faces Questions on Immigration, Education, Healthcare

Continued from Page One

Brunner could not be reached for comment
for this story, but political consultant
Larry Tramutola, speaking for the De La Fuente
campaign, said that in observing how some proposals get
through the City Council project approval, “I sometimes wonder how these
connections are playing out.”

For a complete listing and explanation of the donations to Oakland City Council
candidates, see the online version of this story at

Oakland Council Incumbents Declined Contribution From City Vendors

Continued from Page One

The City of Oakland would allow the Gate-
way Project to go through. That may have
led to some city leaders’ willingness to allow
violations of the spirit of the Campaign
Act reform, which sought to break the
immigrants are used as a smokescreen
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Bohemian Jewish Butchers Dominated Downtown Meat Trade

Among the fortune seekers lured to northern California by the Gold Rush, the Jewish contingent was small but significant. Jewish immigrants would go on to play an important role in the economic and cultural development of the Bay Area, and Berkeley was no exception. Although early accounts rarely discuss Berkeley’s Jewish community, some members figured among the young town’s prominent citizens.

One pioneer Jewish family—the Fischels—established itself in downtown Berkeley in the late 1870s, gradually acquiring land around the Shattuck-University axis. A few of the buildings they erected are still with us today.

The Fischels immigrated from Bohemia, then a Crown Land of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The paterfamilias, Simon Fischel, was born in 1846 or ‘47 (records vary in respect to the date) and arrived in New York as a teenager in 1865. For over a decade, he worked as a butcher, acquiring U.S. citizenship in 1872.

In 1870, Simon married his compatriot Rosa Bauml (1844-1909), and while still in New York, they brought two sons and two daughters into the world (another daughter would be born in Berkeley).

The Fischels probably arrived here in 1878; the 1879 directory listed them on the southeast corner of Shattuck and University Avenues.

In the 1880 U.S. Census, the Fischel household included not only Simon, Rosa, and their four elder children, aged 2 to 8, but Rosa’s younger brother, Jacob Bauml, and E.C. Twicker, both butchers. Their neighbors at the time are familiar names in Berkeley history: John Acheson, who ran the Acheson Hotel on the northeast corner of University and Shattuck, and Jonathan G. Wright, founder of the Golden Sheaf Bakery at 2026 Shattuck.

That year, the Fischels resided in the Antisell Block, an unprepossessing commercial building on the southwest corner of the same intersection. The 1881 U.C. Blue & Gold Yearbook carried a full-page ad announcing, “Liberty Market, cor. University & Shattuck Aves., Antisell Block - Berkeley. Simon Fischel, Dealer in Beef, Veal, Mutton, Lamb, Pork, Salt Meats, Sausages, etc. Families supplied with all kinds of meats of the best quality at the lowest market prices.”

Home delivery was key to success at a time when few customers possessed their own means of transport, but it could backfire. On Nov. 6, 1890, the Berkeley Advocate regaled its readers with this anecdote: “A lady called on Fischel & Co. the other evening and made arrangements for that company to supply her family with meat.

The team was daily sent to the house, when it was discovered that no such family resided there. It turned out that Mr. Fischel was deceived of a young man who donned the garment of a virgin to fool Fischel.”

As the pig carcasses hanging in front of his store attested, Fischel was neither a kosher butcher nor an Orthodox Jew. Nonetheless, he involved himself in Jewish affairs and would be linked to the First Hebrew Congregation of Oakland, a Reform temple founded in 1875 by Gold Rush-era settlers. At a time when Jews were barred from most fraternal societies, Fischel was a member of the Odd Fellows and the Freemasons.

The Fischels didn’t stay long in the Antisell Block. On Dec. 11, 1880, the Berkeley

Continued on Page Thirty-Five
Bohemian Jewish Butchers Dominated Downtown Meat Trade

Advocate reported: "Mr. S. Fischel's family has removed from the Antisell Block to their new house on University Avenue, near Shattuck street."

The new house was located on the north side of University Avenue west of Shattuck. When houses numbers were introduced, it became 2033 University Avenue. The market, too, moved to the north side of the street, although Fischel's annual advertisements in the Blue & Gold continued to list the Antisell Block as the address through most of the 1880s.

Simon Fischel's initial real estate investment was his mid-block home site, comprising lots 11 and 12 in the College Block, on which they erected a one-story house with three bays and a side porch. Within two years, he had added lots 49 and 51, directly behind his home and facing Berkeley Way.

In 1884, he and his brother-in-law and partner Jacob Bauml purchased a Shattuck Ave. property, which became known as the Antisell Block, on which they erected a narrow two-story building. The following year, they added two lots on the south side of University Avenue near Milvia Street. This was only the beginning.

In 1888, he and his brother-in-law and partner Jacob Bauml purchased a Shattuck Ave. property, which became known as the Antisell Block, on which they erected a narrow two-story building. The following year, they added two lots on the south side of University Avenue near Milvia Street. This was only the beginning.

Simon Fischel died on April 4, 1907, two months before his younger daughters Sally and Rebecca were married. Rosa followed him on Feb. 6, 1909. She received brief obituaries in the San Francisco Call, which called her a "pioneer woman and a remarkable woman," and in the Oakland Tribune, which described Simon as "the pioneer butcher of Berkeley." Their various properties were divided among the surviving son, Charles, and his three sisters. Meanwhile, Elsie Fischel's house at 2039 University Ave burned down on July 4, 1908 after catching fire from a festive skyrocket. Elsie and her offspring, Charles and Clara, moved to their second house at 1924 University Ave — bought a double site at 2039 University Ave, next to Simon and Rosa's house. Here they built a plain one-story house and raised a son and a daughter. A few dollars to the west, Jacob and Lilly Bauml raised two girls at 2011 University Ave.

Should I Buy This House?

Continued from Page Thirty-Six

expenses and problems that are inevitable.

Further, I would say that when people love their houses and admire their own choices, they will tend to follow through with good maintenance and timely upgrades that will further improve the overall equation.

Conversely, when someone buys for financial reasons alone or buys the house that they think they should buy, the honeymoon ends all the sooner and may be coupled with a badly timed resale, another round of closing costs and disruption of the flow of life (buying and selling houses, for all the excitement is not something you want to do any more often than absolute-ly necessary). Again, the analogies with dating and marriage should be self-evident; marrying the person your parents think you should marry, marrying for money and so forth.

That said, I'll finish by turning this all on its head. Love grows and the capacity to love will manifest anywhere the lover goes. Some people will always find fault and never settle down. Some people fall in love everywhere they go. I've seen buyers buy the first house they looked at and never look back and I've seen those who looked for years and years and are still renting. If I'm asked, I favor a balanced approach.

Take your time, look around to see what's out there, date a few bungalowls and, perhaps, have a fling with a Victorian. Spend some time with a goody 1930s model and then, when you see something that really turns your head, you'll be able to make a smart decision knowing your heart and your head are both involved.

So don't get me wrong. I do believe that physical conditions matter in choosing a house. Taking a good look makes a lot of sense and including these elements in your thinking is prudent.

That said, I often feel as though my process is akin to the tarot reader turning the cards. It's an activity that houses the revelation of the inner intuition. It looks like we're analyzing wiring and bolts, but often, what we're really doing is finding out if it's really love.
Tools of the Trade: The Phalarope’s Capillary

The northbound phalaropes passed through a few weeks ago. We saw them at the Hayward Regional Shoreline, a couple hundred at least, spinning around like little feathered tops in one of the fenced ponds. Every few minutes a portion of the flock, seized by some apprehension, would take off, circle, and touch down on the water again. These were mostly red-necked phalaropes, and at this season, unlike the gray-and-white birds of winter, they lived up to their names. It was easy to distinguish the brighter-colored females from the dullest males. After a lot of time on the spotting scope, I was able to pick out a red phalarope among the rednecks, a bit larger and bulkier and vivid brick red on the neck, breast, and belly—probably a male.

Wild Neighbors
By Joe Eaton

To anyone, you soon find out that they pick their teeth, that they have some troubling disease or that they’ve never actually read a book. So how do we choose mates? We figure out what’s most important to us and try our best to ignore the rest, in the knowledge that around the corner the grass is always greener and dying. This is the truth. Therefore, it’s important to decide what you really care about the most. What issues are strongest for you. What attracts you most and what you can bear. Buying houses is no different (you knew I’d get around to this, right?)

I met a lovely young couple yesterday. Flush with the thrill of their wedding plans and breathless at the thought of acquiring a new house. After spending some tremendous time looking at the house, we ended up in their backyard drinking fizzy water when the question came up. It’s the question. Should I buy this house? We get it constantly.

Of course, I can never answer the question any more than the psychologist (interestingly these young folks were both psychologists) can tell you whether you should marry the person you’re dating. It’s very personal.

I had a few issues with this house and, after some time in the conversation we emerged with some consistency. If I work out in their backyard drinking fizzy water when the question came up. It’s the question. Should I buy this house? We get it constantly.

Continued on Page Thirty-Five