Planners Won’t Approve Cell Tower Revisions

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Planning commissioners have refused to endorse a staff-prepared set of amendments to the city statutes governing placement of cell phone antennas.

A motion made by David Stoloff at their Nov. 19 meeting to recommend that the City Council should adopt a 13-page revised ordinance died for lack of a second.

Stoloff, Mayor Tom Bates’ appointee to the commission, then voted with the 4 majority to approve commission Chair James Samuel’s motion for the commission simply to forward the proposal to the council, with the recommendation that when they finish their examination, they should send it back to the commission for further work.

Only Roia Ferrazares voted in opposition.

The proposed revisions were drafted by Deputy Planning Director Wendy Cosin and acting City Attorney Zack Cowan.

Cosin said she is obliged to present amendments to the city’s Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Ordinance to the City Council so that they can consider them by Jan. 20.

That date was imposed in a so-called “secret settlement agreement” reached in May that ended the decision was particular to the site, which was in the middle of an open downtown district.

The Planet reported on Nov. 6 that Brighton had informed Art Hazelwood, organizer of the Art of Democracy series, in January that she would not show explicit sex or violence or images of guns since the gallery was open to the street and in the possible pathway of children.

According to Merker, Hazelwood had agreed to the decision was particular to the site, which was in the middle of an open downtown district.

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Richmond Casino Could Reject Lawsuits by Claiming Immunity

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Will Richmond allow a sovereign nation to build an enclave in their city, a state-within-a-city that possesses diplomatic immunity from California’s civil courts?

Asked that question, neither developer James D. Levine nor a representative of the Guidiville Rancheria band of Pomo Indians who hopes to become the casino czar of Richmond.

And last Wednesday night’s meeting of Citizens for Eastshore Parks (CESP) did feature some growing and snapping, though none by Robert Cheasty, the group’s president and the “Bob” mentioned by James D. Levine.

In the end, Levine had presented park advocates with an offer he hopes they can’t refuse: Give us your support, and we’ll give you something you want in return.

That something, he said, just might be the acquisition of more open space for parkland “within 10 miles” of the existing park, “and some of these opportunities will not be available afterwards.”

Besides, he said, “Being progressive is about doing things, not just saying them.”

The Richmond City Council picked Levine to develop the former naval refueling station at Point Molate, where he plans a billion-dollar casino-centered resort that, he promises, will herald the economic salvation of one of the Bay Area’s most troubled cities.

A former state environmental regulator turned private consultant and now reincarnated as a developer, Levine has been promising to revitalize Richmond’s struggling economy, provide jobs for...

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New Guidelines for Addison Windows Gallery

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

The Berkeley Civic Arts Commission voted last Wednesday to approve new guidelines for the city-owned Addison Street Windows Gallery and introduced changes to the city’s contract with the gallery’s curator, Carol Brighton, following the public outcry that ensued when she rejected four posters from the national Art of Democracy series, citing curatorial judgment.

The commission also discussed the possibility of hosting the show in the future.

The political artwork was originally scheduled to be mounted on the gallery walls during election week but was canceled after the artists took offense at Brighton’s decision to not allow certain works and decided that the show would only go up in its entirety.

Free speech supporters cried censorship, but Brighton and the city’s Civic Arts Coordinator Mary Ann Merker called it curatorial judgment, explaining that...

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City’s Verizon Settlement Proves a Minor Embarrassment

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

While the City of Berkeley-Verizon Wireless “secret settlement agreement” is hardly likely to reach the notoriety of the infamous City of Berkeley-UC Berkeley “secret deal” of 2006, confusion over the Verizon settlement—if, in fact, it is actually a legal settlement—appears to be causing some momentary embarrassment among Berkeley City officials.

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Mixed Reactions for Berkeley High Development Plan

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

Berkeley High School's proposal to develop a new small school, create advisory programs and block schedules following a $1 million federal grant in July received mixed reactions from the community during a public forum on Monday.

The plan, crafted by the Berkeley High School Design Committee—comprised of Berkeley High teachers, principal Jim Stemp and a parent and a student—was presented to the School Governance Council last week and to the Berkeley Board of Education on Nov. 9. At Monday's meeting in the school's library, Stemp stressed that the time was right for Berkeley High to ride the wave of change.

"Berkeley High is a great school. I can say it's one of the best 10 large urban high schools in the country," he said. "Our attendance rate is going up and our discipline and drop-out rates are going down.

We have an excellent faculty at any high school of our size, but, we still have an achievement gap. Our black and Latino students are not achieving as well as our white students. Most of the people in this room—your children are succeeding, but I need you to think about all children."

Stemp said that the high school had been debating the prospect of introducing some kind of reform on campus through block schedules and advisories, which received kind of reform on campus through block schedules and advisories, which received

"Advocates will personalize the BHS experience by providing a safe, caring and cooperative community that evolves over four years," Stemp said, adding that the program had been implemented nationwide and had gone on to be successful in some cases and a complete waste of time in others.

One parent of a ninth-grader said that she liked the idea of an advisory period as long as students didn't end up fooling around during that time.

"We want them to be advisors with academic and social content, which will benefit students and help them grow as a person," said Angela Price, a parent and a college advisor at Berkeley High. Price said she would like to see the new plan include more parental involvement, including those from African American and other minority communities who often feel unwelcome on campus.

The block schedule would include red and gold alternating days, with student attending periods one through four on "red days" and periods five through eight on "gold days.

"Classes would last 90 minutes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 80 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday in order to include a 30-minute advisory period, something some school board presidents and parents said would deprive students of valuable instructional time.

Berkeley High PTSA President Mark Van Krieken said that the proposed schedule would mean students get 25 percent fewer minutes per week to work on their current set-up of six periods during a regular school day and a 22 percent loss in overall instructional time. He said it's one of the best 10 large urban high schools in the country.

"The majority of parents are really interested in small schools who are struggling," he said. "Nobody has been able to explain how this kind of cutback in instruction time is going to lead to improved academic performance for all of our students."

Mary McDonald, another parent, said she liked the proposed plan because it was freeing up the students' mornings.

"A lot of people are concerned about it but I think they're afraid," she said. "I miss class you get an extra day to turn your homework in.

School Board President John Selawsky said that he was concerned about the loss of instructional time.

"Part of it is a logistical issue," he said. "The high school should not be bringing about all these changes when the school district is negotiating with the Berkeley Federation of Teachers.

The Berkeley teachers union is discussing a contract renewal with district officials.

"They're running out of time," BFT President Cathy Campbell said of Berkeley High's proposal. "The school board will have to approve them and authorize district officials to approach the union with the changes. There's a real struggle here, we will not bend on change but the question remains what degree of change do we want. It may be that the current proposal is not good enough but we can work out the details.

The next community forum is scheduled for Tuesday at St. Joseph's the Worker Church and will be in addition to the Berkeley Unified School District's proposal to review input from the various groups and vote on the proposal on Dec. 9, following which the school board will have the opportunity to review the proposal and judge it in January.

McLaughlin was present at the meeting Wednesday when the board presented Rivera with a resolution honoring his achievements.

Rivera said that during his time on the school board he had been successful in his efforts to create a single plan for student achievement and desegregating the district.

"I am not going to go back to the school board meetings on TV but I might turn up in my robe with a wine glass in hand to watch you guys in action," he said, smiling, adding that he would be chipping in to help when the district was ready to introduce bond measures to Berkeley voters in a couple of years.

"I have some regrets that I didn't have a beer when it happened," he said.

Rivera also thanked his family for standing behind him like a rock during his stint as board president, including his former partner, who had been with him for most of his 12 years on the board.

"Personally it teases me very closely," he said at the meeting last Wednesday.

“At this point my marriage may or may not be valid. This is really a civil rights issue. It’s a two-way thing. Since I am leaving now, I can tell the unions that this is a very good thing for them, we’ve given them what we’re asking for. Sacramento doesn’t give us a lot of money and we should be asking at them,” he said.

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Cal Prof to Head White House Council of Economic Advisers

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

President-elect Barack Obama announced today that he had chosen Christina Romer, professor of economics at UC Berkeley and a resident of Oakland, to chair the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Romer will join Timothy F. Geithner—who Obama nominated as Treasury secretary—and former president of Harvard University Lawrence H. Summers—who will run the National Economic Council—to become one of the key members of the president-elect’s new economic team.

The Council of Economic Advisers is comprised of three members who recommend policy options to the president.

As chair of the CEA, Romer, along with the director of the National Economic Council, will play an important role in creating the president’s policy plans.

Calling the current economic climate a “crisis of historic proportions,” Obama introduced his new economic team at a press conference in Chicago Monday morning, describing Romer as both a leading macroeconomist and a leading economic historian, perhaps best known for her work on America’s recovery from the Great Depression and the robust economic expansion that followed.

Romer has also served as co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research Monetary Economics program held at the city’s RichmondWORKS program.

Newly elected Richmond Councilman Jeff Ritterman talks with a constituent during a program held at the city’s RichmondWORKS program.

RICHARD BRENNEMAN

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The Berkeley Daily Planet

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

As a heart doctor, it’s probably only natural that Jeff Ritterman has his fingers on the biggest power in the city by the active support of Measure T, another winner on Nov. 4.

That ballot measure imposes a new business tax that reaches into the deep pockets of Chevron, the city’s dominant landowner.

“Chevron put a lot of money into defeating us,” he said. “But my popularity is based on my work as a doctor, and that cuts across lines of race and class.”

As for neighborhoods where he didn’t fare so well, “They just show where there’s tremendous work yet to be done.

Mayoraly ally

The doctor and Mayor Gayle McLaughlin have been allies ever since Ritterman became active in city politics five years ago.

He backed the mayor in her runs first for a seat on the council, and then two years later, when she won election as California’s first Green Party mayor.

The 60-year-old activist has been at the Kaiser Richmond center since 1981, and he’s been an activist in national and international political issues for decades.

Ritterman first came to the Daily Planet's attention early in 2004, when he joined other Richmond activists in opposing a plan to build a high-rise housing complex atop a massive mound of buried hazardous waste at Campus Bay.

Clad in his white lab coat, he marched in several demonstrations at the site, drawing

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Newly elected Richmond Councilman Jeff Ritterman talks with a constituent during a program held at the city’s RichmondWORKS program.

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Richard Brenneman

President-elect Barack Obama announced today that he had chosen Christina Romer, professor of economics at UC Berkeley and a resident of Oakland, to chair the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Romer is the Class of 1957-Garff B. Wilkie Professor in Public Policy at UC Berkeley, where she teaches economic history and macroeconomics, and has served as vice president and a member of the executive committee of the American Economic Association.

Before joining the university’s faculty in 1988 and getting promoted to full professor in 1993, Romer received her Ph.D. from M.I.T. in 1985 and was an assistant professor at the University of California and public affairs at Princeton University from 1985 to 1988.

Her research interests listed on the UC Berkeley website include the effects of fiscal policy, identification of monetary shocks, the determinants of American macroeconomic policy changes in short-run fluctuations over the 20th century and causes of the Great Depression.

A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award at UC Berkeley, Romer is the recipient of several awards and fellowships, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, and an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship.

“This is a superb appointment,” said Maurice Obstfeld, a UC Berkeley economics professor and an expert on monetary and international economics, in a statement released by the university. “Given the economic challenges we are facing, the country needs a top macroeconomist heading the CEA. I can think of no one more qualified than Christy Romer.”

UC Berkeley professors who have chaired the CEA in previous years include Laura Tyson, who headed the council during the Clinton administration from 1993 to 1996, and Janet Yellen, who served as chair from 1997 to 1999 and is now president of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank.

In an e-mail to colleagues, Gérard Roland, chair of UC Berkeley’s economics department, wrote: “These are exceptional times where new economists can make such a difference to help protect the livelihoods of millions of Americans.”

Romer, along with her husband David, who is the Herman Royer Professor in Political Economy at UC Berkeley, have studied the history of the U.S. monetary policy from the Great Depression to today, and also consulted for the Obama campaign, writing talking points for one of his speeches on the economy.

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Rae Imamura passed away on Saturday, Nov. 22 at her Berkeley home. Daughter of Rev. Kanno and Jane Imamura, Rae is survived by her mother, her siblings, Hiro, Ryo and Mariko and her dog Brandy. Rae graduated from UC Berkeley, and went on to receive her M.F.A. in piano at Mills College after finding her voice in contemporary music.

In 1975, she co-founded a new music ensemble called the Berkeley Composers Ensemble, which included such composers as John Cage, Robert Ashley, Lou Harrison, Terry Riley, John Adams and Paul Dresher. She later joined the Arch Ensemble for Experimental Music, and partnered in a two-piano team with Michael Orland.

Rae taught at the East Bay Center for Performing Arts in Richmond and was the center's assistant director at its founding in the early '70s. She would often tell people that she found her most rewarding work to be working with the young students at the center.

She also worked with the Oakland-East Bay Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony, the Oakland Ballet Orchestra, the Santa Cruz Symphony and Friends of Chamber Music, in which she was the accompanist for the choir at St. Theresa’s for many years and continued on with the Berkeley Choral Choir.

A memorial for Rae will be held Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way.

Troubled Golden Gate Fields Parent Hires Leading Bankruptcy Lawyer

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Magna Entertainment, the endangered parent of Albany’s Golden Gate Fields, has hired a bankruptcy lawyer and is surviving on week-to-week loans.

But even closure of the track and the subsequent loss of revenues wouldn’t hurt the city as badly as in past years, said Albany Mayor Robert Lieber.

While track revenues contribute between 2 and 4 percent of the revenues of the city’s general fund, Albany’s Target store contributes an even greater share, those revenues are coming from parcel tax revenues which are independent of track proceeds, Lieber said.

Known on the stock tickers as MECA, the Magna Entertainment is a spinoff of Canadian Frank Stronach’s auto parts firm Magna International and is the nation’s largest owner and operator of horse racing tracks.

In addition to the Albany track, Magna owns Santa Anita Park in Southern California, Portland Meadows in Oregon, Laurel Park and Pimlico in Maryland, Lone Star Park in Texas, Remington Park in Oklahoma, The Meadows in Pennsylvania, Gulfstream Park in Florida and the Magna Racino in strawton’s native Austria.

The company also owns an off-track betting system and holds major interests in a television distribution system and an off-track racing network as well as AmToTe International, which provides number-crunching services for tracks.

The entertainment spinoff, created at the direction of the company’s parent company because of its consistent losses, has fallen on hard times that reflect trends in the horse-racing industry, which is slowly transforming from the Sport of Kings to playing of paupers. In February, NAS- voted down the company’s bankruptcy plan or it would delist the shares by summer since they had fallen below the market’s dollar-a-share minimum.

Magna complied, and in early July announced a reverse stock split, with each existing share exchanged for five new shares and it would delist the shares by summer since they had fallen below the market’s dollar-a-share minimum.

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Although MECA has a strong asset base and a strong track record, ‘there are a lot of debt and interest expense,’ Stronach said in a statement released with the report. The only bright spot for Stronach’s California operations is an increase in revenues of $3.1 million from Golden Gate Fields—but only because of a 10-day expansion of the track’s racing schedule.

Average daily revenues at the track actual- ly declined slightly.

That same report included the announce- ment that Magna has engaged Miller Buckfire & Co., LLC ... to review and evaluate various strategic alternatives including adding race horses, adding more financing and balanc- ing sheet restructuring opportunities.

In other words, Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection—the firm’s specialty.

On Monday, when Magna announced that it had only about two months worth of cash, the company’s revolving credit line with the Bank of Montreal.

Horse racing has fallen on hard times, and attendance at tracks has dwindled—

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

The overwhelming defeat of Berkeley Measure KK in the Nov. 4 election has resulted in a dramatic—and completely understandable—reversal of opinion about the transit project. Although there still exists some of its proponents and opponents.

Measure KK proponents said at an AC Transit Board meeting that the board had voted down the measure yet again and that the board should not be considered a “rubber stamp” for the BRT project, which was begun in the planning process by AC Transit before any current member was elected to the board.

Two weeks ago, Berkeley voters defeated an extension of the bus-lane set-aside proposal to the Berkeley-San Leandro district. An advisory vote was defeated in the city of Berkeley, and the vote was 1,695 to 1,592.

Meanwhile, AC Transit officials have released a proposed timeline that completes the environmental impact report process by the third quarter of 2010, final design for BRT by the first quarter of 2011, beginning of construction by the second quarter of 2012, with completion of the first segment by the end of 2015. But the project still has to complete a complicated approval process that includes the measurement for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) approval by city councils in Berkeley, San Leandro, and Oakland and final project permits from the California Highway Department.

On Wednesday night, AC Transit Board President Chris Peples said several times that the news came as a “disappointment” to the board.

The project’s main backers are the city of Berkeley, the city of Oakland, and the city of San Leandro, which has supported BRT for years.

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East Bay Mayors File Suit to Block LBAM Spraying

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Two East Bay mayors are among the plaintiffs who filed suit in San Francisco Tuesday, taking the battle over Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) spraying into federal court.

Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin and her Albany counterpart Robert Lieber joined with Santa Cruz City Councilmember Tony Madrigal and lead plaintiff North Coast Rivers Alliance in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) approval of a controversial eradication program.

Attorney Stephen Volker, representing the plaintiffs, contends that the EPA violated two federal statutes when it approved exemptions from registering the ingredients of two moth sprays used in spraying over residential and agricultural areas.

The plaintiffs argue that the organophosphates—the same chemicals used in many nerve gas develop for military use—were fingered as the cause of Gulf War Syndrome, an ailment which has afflicted many veterans of the Iraq Wars in a report released last week. The EPA, the document states, is forcing residents to breathe dangerous pesticides into their homes.

As the plaintiffs see it, the EPA has ignored a federal law that requires the agency to consider the health effects of any technology released into the environment.

McLaughlin, Lieber, and Madrigal have joined a growing list of local government leaders who have battled the EPA over its spraying program which is alleged to be unsafe for human health.

In a statement, McLaughlin said, “Healthcare is on everyone’s mind and global health is going to come to the forefront.”

However, the foundation is concerned about the economy, says Susag, and has started an 18-month planning program to watch out for its funding. Susag expects to receive more donations at the end of the year, when people typically make charitable gifts.

“Our goal is to ask people to give more because fewer people can.”

—By Kristin McFarland

The holidays bring to light the need of NonProfits

By KRISTIN MCFARLAND

Thanksgiving can easily be a family’s most expensive meal of the year. But imagine buying turkey and side dishes for 400 people in a time when prices are up, incomes are down, and donations have decreased. Non-profits across the Bay Area are facing increases in need, even as they are suffering from a tide in diminishing resources, and the pinch is felt hardest at the holidays.

“Our feeding program use is up 30 percent compared to this time last year,” said Terre Light, executive director of the Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP). “Our shelter homes have seen increases, ever.” BFHP will serve a traditional Thanksgiving dinner in a community setting to the homeless, former transitional services clients, and any other community members who cannot afford the year’s most extravagant meal. The project has discovered that the local food banks simply don’t have enough to meet their needs, and this year’s holiday food expenditures will come out of the organization’s (shallow) pockets.

Light said on one particular Wednesday afternoon saying that this year the Berkeley Food and Housing Project had so far managed to fill only 30 percent of the 60 requests for food boxes for clients who were permanently housed and in need of assistance to cook a Thanksgiving meal. Those willing to help can contact Light at 649-4965 ext. 307 or at 2140 Dwight Way.

In its annual price survey, the American Farm Bureau Federation reports that Thanksgiving dinner is “still affordable,” but when compared to last year’s increase of $2.35 per person for a meal serving 10 may not hurt an affluent family, that price smart when multiplied by 40 people. The price of turkeys has increased by 8 percent, and Light said that they simply aren’t receiving as many donations for food boxes as they used to help. BFHP will make up the difference.

“We’re in uncharted waters in terms of need,” said Brian Higgins, media contact for the Alameda County Food Bank. Higgins reports that use of the food bank hotline, which connects callers with emergency food programs in their area, is up 39 percent from the year before. The helpline now sees hundreds of first-time callers every week.

That’s on top of the 40,000 people in Alameda County already receiving aid from the food bank on a weekly basis.

“We’re hearing from people who have never made that call before, households where both parents are working,” Higgins said. “It’s a choice between rent and food.”

In addition to increased need, the food bank is “in critical need of monetary donations,” Higgins said. Over the past few years, the number of donations has been going down. “Donations are only a little piece of the puzzle; it’s how many people need food that really makes a difference,” Higgins said.

The holidays make a family’s lack of funds even more acute and place a greater toll on food service agencies than the rest of the year.

“We get a bunch of requests for help in the holiday seasons, and this year we will probably have to tell people that we can’t help,” Light said.

Monetary donations can be made to the Alameda County Food Bank online at www.accfb.org/how_to_help.html and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project at http://bfhp.org.

Grant Creates Wider Reach for Hesperian Foundation

Despite the holiday trouble for emergency food and shelter programs, the Hesperian Foundation, the Berkeley-based non-profit publisher of community-oriented medical books, including the internationally known Where There Is No Doctor, can report an exciting new grant that will carry the organization to many more people in need of its aid.

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**MONDAY, DEC. 1**

**Birds for the Birds**

The Berkeley Birding Walk at Tilden Park, led by Bethany Facendini, from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Berkeley Meadow in East Bay. Registration fee: $8. 548-9840. 

**Foraging for Food**

Learn how to forage for food. Tilden Park, Tilden 2233. 

**TUESDAY, DEC. 2**

**Birds for the Birds**

The Berkeley Birding Walk at Tilden Park, led by Bethany Facendini, from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Berkeley Meadow in East Bay. Registration fee: $8. 548-9840. 

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3**

**How Will You Survive in the Upcoming Economic Downturn?** with Jonathan K. De佛e at 7:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Public Library Community Room, 2091 Kittridge St. 548-8171.

**International Body Music Festival Teacher Training Workshop** at First Unitarian Church, 61st 14th St. Cost: $5. 548-2220, ext. 227.

**Therapeutic Recreation at the Berkeley Warm Pool, Warm Pool, 2245 Milton Rd. Cost: $5. Bring a towel. 548-9840.**
One of the perks of being a newspaper columnist—as well as a newspaper reporter—is that from time to time, you get the chance to write your own fantasies. For political columnists and reporters, this is due to a lack of face-to-handcapping—sometimes years in advance—political races. Like all good fantasties, political races advance hand-in-hand with the need to adhere to certain rules, such as the columnist or reporter clearly stating in advance that the content is to be used for including or excluding certain potential candidates. Without that, such political fantasias would provide no useful insight, except into the wishful thinking of the people doing the writing. But we’ll get to that, shortly.

In the past couple of weeks, our friends in the East Bay bureau at the San Francisco Chronicle have begun to look into a particular interest in the future of state Senate President Don Perata. Mr. Perata is facing two large changes in his life, one the end of his term as of the end of this year, the other the longstanding federal criminal investigation as of the end of this year, the other the longstanding federal criminal investigation of Perata himself on his Senate dealings. If you noticed something pointedly missing from the Perata resume penned by Mr. Johnson or those in the robotic collection policy wonks, look at the developments on behalf of Oakland that would give Oakland voters a reason to choose Mr. Perata as their mayor—you are not by yourself.

In fact, that seems to be the principle lacking in a New York Times article on Mr. Perata’s political future (“Retiring Perata Ready To Be Outside Looking In”) by Chronicle writers Matthew Y. and Christopher Heredia.

Mr. Perata “hopes his next destination is the San Francisco office,” said he’d covered for more than a decade, Mr. Yi and Mr. Heredia write. “In the meantime, he’s preparing to launch his campaign for Oakland mayor in 2010, but other East Bay power brokers and political experts think that he may be looking for a job in which his vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not their vision is for Oakland—not 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You never, for some reason, hear about Edwards’ kitchen. You probably know about the Pilgrims’ kitchen, but there’s another one that might have been added parenthetically in the lead of the Wikipedia article about the Pilgrims for the sake of political correctness, but there’s no link to any article about them. There must have been Pilgrim Mothers, of course, because otherwise there wouldn’t have been a Society of Mayflower Descendants.

It seems unlikely, verging on very improbable, that the Fathers cooked the original turkeys. It’s quite likely that they were barbecued, as they might have been, then perhaps the Fathers did do the honors. Maybe the Pilgrims roasts them (the turkeys, not the Fathers). The latest research on the original Pilgrims is revisatory, as the most entertaining historical research always is.

An early version of the Monitor, the newspaper in Concord, Mass., where some of my ancestors stopped off between Plymouth and Cambridge, had an editorial on this topic on Monday. Their conclusion, cribbed from the publication of the Plimouth Plantation, a New England tourist attraction: berries, wild grapes and echs—oh my! Mushes, lobsters and geese—oh my! Corn, clams and ducks—oh my! And deer and “wild fowl” probably those turkeys that were barbecued. As they might have been, then perhaps the Fathers did do the honors. Maybe the Pilgrims roasts them (the turkeys, not the Fathers). The latest research on the original Pilgrims is revisatory, as the most entertaining historical research always is.

The editorial writer thought no one would care about the Pilgrims’ kitchen and was more likely to care about the modern Berkeley kitchen. They are sometimes found in Berkeley kitchens, of course, sneaking in through the cat door to eat the cat food at night. But few of us eat them. They could become the locavore alternative to farmed turkeys, now that Proposition 2 has passed, but they’d have to compete for menu placement with the flocks of wild turkeys periodically sighted on city streets.

What else could we try for a genuinely locavore Thanksgiving? Well, I think that sorrel soup is already farmed turkeys, now that Proposition 2 has passed, but they’d have to compete for menu placement with the flocks of wild turkeys periodically sighted on city streets.

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We’ve got plenty of raccoons, too, though they’re seldom seen on Berkeley tables. They’re sometimes found in Berkeley kitchens, of course, sneaking in through the cat door to eat the cat food at night. But few of us eat them. They could become the locavore alternative to farmed turkeys, now that Proposition 2 has passed, but they’d have to compete for menu placement with the flocks of wild turkeys periodically sighted on city streets.

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Well, yellow sorrel, also known as “a few” Jerusalem artichokes (the turkeys, not the Pilgrims). The problem is getting rid of them once you’ve loaded them—serving them for Thanksgiving might just work. We’ve got plenty of raccoons, too, though they’re seldom seen on Berkeley tables. They’re sometimes found in Berkeley kitchens, of course, sneaking in through the cat door to eat the cat food at night. But few of us eat them. They could become the locavore alternative to farmed turkeys, now that Proposition 2 has passed, but they’d have to compete for menu placement with the flocks of wild turkeys periodically sighted on city streets.

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Few Pay Attention to AC Transit’s Transgressions

By JOYCE ROY

T is is in response to the Nov. 20 commentary, “Fairness and Climate Change Demand MTC Attention,” by Richard A. Marcantonio, an attorney with Public Advocates Inc. Yes, the MTC does have a role in AC Transit’s financial problems. It enables them to misuse funds. You would think an “agency that holds the purse strings for AC Transit” could attach some strings to how AC Transit spends its money. Indeed, they have turned a blind eye to AC Transit’s quasi-legal lending of funds so they can use local monies designated for operations to buy imported buses and squander funds that results in the need to cut services and increase fares.

I must say I bought into the good/bad views of that community, too, until start- ed paying close attention a couple of years ago to how AC Transit’s management was allocating its funds and the board’s absolute inattention. Some of the board members love to talk passionately about environmental issues but they don’t put their money where their mouth is. During this past campaign, Chris Peeples loved to say how he was serving the poor and people at the past board meeting, Joe Wallace said he “fights for poor people.” But both of these along with most of the board, vote time and again to squander funds on no-bid imported buses and cut service trips abroad for management and employees.

All funds go into a big pool, the general fund. So, for instance, the money collected from Measure VV, whose glossy mailers and TV spots were “Sponsored by ABC Companies,” the U.S. distributor of Van Hool buses, and that emphasized the needs of the elderly and disabled, can be used to purchase buses that elderly and disabled find treacherous. Let’s put some numbers to this. The ink was barely dry on Measure VV and the AC Transit Company received a hefty return on their investment at the Nov. 12 board meeting:

- Nineteen Van Hool 60-foot articulat- ed buses (even though the general manage- er could not demonstrate a need for them) cost $5,489,299, therefore, squandered funds: $5,330,603
- Forty 45-foot Van Hool suburban buses at $511,119: $20,445,990. The GM ignored the board’s May 14 directive to put out bids for both 40 and 45-foot buses and the board didn’t seem to care. For- eign buses that took the cream of the market, for example, the Gillig 40-foot suburban bus that was exhibited at the APTA (American Public Transit Association) conference. EXPO in October would cost $349,168 plus $75 delivery to Oakland. That would be $13,969,720 for 40 buses, therefore, squan- dered funds: $6,475,040. That is a total of $11,805,641 squandered funds at one board sitting, most of the $14,000,000 they are hoping to receive from Measure VV.
- Part of the order for 50 40-foot two- door Gillig buses was ordered for the original reason for having to import buses, didn’t turn out to be a good idea) are being delivered as 1 write. Each cost $40,000 including delivery. The average cost of a low floor 40-foot 2-door American bus according to APTA is $328,000. Therefore, squandered funds: $3,600,000.
- While other agencies with a demon- stration hydrogen fuel cell program are questioning them because of their cost and ineffectiveness, AC Transit asked for and received a grant for expanding theirs rather than seeking grant funds that would actually provide expanded and improved service to increase ridership. The present program has three Van Hool buses that breakfasted from being sold because they are purchasing eight more at $2,250,000 each, for a total of $18,000,000. And expanding at least $2,700,000 for a new fueling facility in Emeryville, so total squandered funds on expanded cell fuel program: $25,780,000.
- And this agency that is serving “poor people” has sent the general manager, the General Counsel and 50 employees on a

Reducing the Long Legacy of Goldwater

By JEAN DAMU

I n director Sam Peckinpah’s 1962 classic, Ride the High Country, movie legend Randolph Scott yells to a bunch of Southern racists: “You’re not peckerwoods.” This was possibly a first in the history of film when one white charac- ter leveled a double-barreled racial epithet to other white characters.

While the term peckerwood remains anathema to most white people today, it would seem the term red-neck has gained respectability in some circles while in fact signifying that red-necked whites are ugly characters.

As a leader Palin is not the only option for Republicans. There exist a number of Republican representatives of class interests beyond the Sarah Palins of the world and become representatives of class interests beyond the Sarah Palins of the world and become Republicans have found a comfort zone in the Deep South, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. After winning her state primary with 90 percent support from red-necked white voters.

Just four years later the Republican Party completely resurrected itself with the election of Richard Nixon whose campaign laid the basis of what today we refer to as the Southern Strategy: articulating the concerns and values of politically and racially conservative southern whites but which resonate with conservative white workers nationally. In what was a great error in judgment was done was to campaign against the 64 Voters Rights Act, legislation that eventually was critically empowered African Ameri- can.

In the coded language of 1968 politics the Republican National Committee wrote, “there is a silent majority,” an appeal to white voters. The more recent version of the Southern Strategy and its’ primary articulator Lee Atwater, of whom much has recently been written, was to uses overwhelming advan- tage of Reagan’s name recognition, ironically enough against southerner Jimmy Carter and that strategy has been the unstated name of the game for Republicans ever since.

Despite the obvious changes U.S. demo-


graphics are undergoing, with massive numbers of Latinos and other “people of color” migrating to the United States, Republicans have found a comfort zone in making themselves attractive, once again, marginalized and underprivileged minority groups.

When Gov. Palin chose to appear at the Asheville, North Carolina Republican rally, to sing and dance along as Gretchen Wilson sang her country hit, “Redneck Woman,” it was extremely difficult for a casual observer to tell if this crowd was composed of redneck women or pecker- wood women, or more importantly, if there was any innocence on the part of the. The only thing missing was the Confederate flag and one is not convinced (after viewing just one short clip from the video) the flag was miss- ing.

The Republican Party may well choose the white working class to help the Palin’s media-created wake and continue to stoke the cultural fires; cultural fires long attributed by conservative media to the New Left of the 1960s.

There exist a number of Republican alternatives to Palin. Chris Carr of New Mexico, an intriguing prospects is Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, of whom Republican tax reformer Grover Norquist recently said, “He will be president. I don’t know the year.” Jindall is the first Indian American governor in the United States and the first non-white governor of Louisiana since the Reconstruction Era’s P.B.S. Pinchback. But will the Republicans go in a new direction? There is little evidence to make one think so. The media’s focusing treat- ment of Palin during the recent governors’ campaign and the breathless accounts of her criticisms of any Washington bailout of Detroit’s auto industry make it appear she will be given great credibility in any future discussion of Republican national leader- ship.

Palin’s political and physical attractive- ness has been described by some as the modern commodification of fascism, extreme right wing ideology that appeals primarily to those who still smart from advances made by African Americans and of object who to the changing racial demo- cracies.

For the Republicans to have a meaning- ful future in a modern United States they need to change course from the paths of the Sarah Palins of the world and become representative of class interests beyond the Sarah Palins of the world and those who wave Confederate flags and wish they could join the country club. But don’t hold your breath.

Jean Damu is a Berkeley resident.
Poisonous PR Reported Too Faithfully

By ANNETTE HERSKOVITS

A n Israeli infantry unit entered the Gaza Strip early this month, violating a five-month-old truce between Israel and Hamas, the party now ruling Gaza. The Israelis set up camp in a family’s home, and as clashes with Hamas continued, followers called for air support. So that was it. On Nov. 4 and 5, while the world’s attention was focused on Sri Lanka’s election, 17 Palestinians were killed by aircraft fired missiles that killed six Palestinian militants.

An Israeli Defense Ministry claimed this was a “preemptive” operation aimed at destroying a tunnel built by Palestinians to abduct Israeli soldiers, a claim impossible to counter, since, on Nov. 5, Israeli authorities closed the Gaza Strip to all foreign press—a unprecedented measure.

Inevitably, Palestinian militants responded to the Israeli killings by firing rockets into Israel (which caused no casualties). A common complaint between Israel and Gaza. No food, medicine, or fuel were allowed in. The humanitarian aid that feeds 80 percent of the population was dismantled, and without fuel, Gaza’s power plant had to be shut down.

These measures against Gaza’s civil population, which includes 700,000 children, have consequences of collective punishment, and therefore for war crimes under international law.

In its report, the UN official, stated “[N]ot only are these sanctions counterproductive to their stated purposes. First: There are tremendous health consequences. The food shortages have led to death or life-long disability. There is a severe shortage in medicine and medical equipment. Many hospitals lack X-ray machines, lab and X-ray rooms, labs, pharmacies and operating rooms are desperate. Medical appointments are canceled due to chronic and serious illnesses such as cancer or diabetes, unable to receive the necessary medical care. As a result of recovery. Since the siege began in June of 2007, a total of 257 people have been killed in Gaza, in shantytowns, refugee camps, and crowded neighborhoods, which shows that fragile and inadequate infrastructure. Lack of medical supplies needed to treat the people who need to treated sewage water. The only solution open to the city is to drain the sewage water. As a result, the beaches have been polluted and the fishing season has been significantly impacted.

On rainy winter days, the streets and homes are flooded with water and the already bumpy and unpaved roads become even worse. Sewer pipes often become damaged due to poor materials and lack of maintenance. Dirty and toxic water flows out from these pipes, making the environment even worse. In some refugee camps, flooding was so severe that people had to assemble rafts and boats in order to get around.

In Jabalia refugee camp where I work, increasing numbers of people have developed skin conditions due to exposure to toxic air and chemical waste.

Water has been flooding our backyard for days. The city public works department cannot fix the problem because it has no construction materials to replace the damaged utilities. Heavy machinery cannot operate because there is no fuel. We cannot open any windows and we breathe toxic waste for days until sunny days come to dry out everything. Streets are covered with mud, pebbles and hazardous sharp stones. City departments simply say, “We cannot do anything.”

I have not mentioned many other problems that face our impoverished, war-torn and isolated society. Shortages of food, schools, and services, and other basic needs—because I wanted to focus on one thing that is most familiar with... There is a need for urgent help from the international community to end the siege on Gaza. As you know, President Obama and Jimmy Carter described the siege that Gaza is enduring as a “crime against humanity.”

Can you imagine living like this? One can only hope that the Obama administration will be able to steer Israel away from its blind, self-destructive policies.

Annette Herskovits is a freelance writer living in Berkeley.
The Carter-Olmert Middle East Peace Proposal

BY AKIO TANAKA

There was much hope when the Oslo Peace accords were signed in 1993. However, the peace process was delayed when Dr. Barak began to make his infamous ‘remark’ with regard to the Cave of the Patriarch on Feb. 25, 1994, and the massacre was avenged 40 days later by the left-wingmessiah inside Israel in the city of Afula on April 6, 1994. The peace process received further blow when the Prime Minister Israeli Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated on Nov. 4, 1995, as he was leaving a rally in Tel Aviv in support of the Oslo process, by Yigal Amir, a radical right-wing extremist who opposed the signing of the Oslo Accords.

However, recently, the outgoing Prime Miniser of Israel, Ehud Olmert, has said that he believes that the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was Israel withdrawing from the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

This is the same proposal that President Carter put forth in his 2006 book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid." The book states, "Although some still argue that there can be no peace until Palestinians stop their "terrorist" attacks, the American view is that there can be no peace unless Palestinian attacks cease. It is true that the American "terrorist" attacks are desperate response attacks against an occupied, illegal occupation by a people that is trying to restore their rights. The American view is that the ways the Palestinians can become involved in the process of change discussion in an institutional setting is a very important point, the most intriguing portions of the dialogue dealt with the need for a change in the way the American public perceives the Middle East."

Furthermore, the Palestinian "terrorism" is no match for Israel's "state terrorism" with its F-16's, Apache helicopters, and Merkava tanks. This is why far more Palestinians fall victim to Israeli bullets, tear gas and rubber bullets than Israeli soldiers. In the words of the author, "occupation is the right to determine their existence, to live normal lives in their homeland, and this is part of the process of change discussion in an institutional setting as well as the way the American public perceives the Middle East."

President Carter in his book cites that between September 2000 and March 2006, 1,084 Israelis were killed of which 123 were children, while 3,901 Palestinians were killed of which 708 were children.

Sara Roy, who is a daughter of a Holocaust surviver, addressed what the Palestinians endure under the Israeli occupation at a Holocaust survivor, addressed what the Palestinians endure under the Israeli occupation at a Holocaust survivor. She said, "The very mention of global warming triggers feelings of apocalypse and impending societal collapse. It is a world a scary place. Timothy Morton professed the need for society to let out a cathartic scream with footnotes attached. A release of all the built-up pressure, yet with an added note of intelligence and awareness. It is true that something that we just need to scream."

Morton also pointed out that its okay to express oneself through words and writing, art and one, lets go of personal feelings and shares them with the world, which is the purpose of the cathartic scream process. There is no way we can heal the planet if we do not heal ourselves first."

He could order that U.S. military sites run by the Department of Defense (DOD) such as those in Guam (He may close Gitmo as a public-relations move,), in Iraq, and Afghanistan which hold prisoners taken in the so-called "war on terror." He could order the DOD to begin constructing the Christian community" here at these sites. These would include torture, false imprisonment, and murder."

He could pardon any prisoners convicted under military law in the United States which strips defendants of their human and legal rights. He could order the CIA to cease renditions and to stop the operation of "secret" prisons. The CIA has kidnaped prisoners and tortured some to develop "aliases" in the war on terror, including to countries on the U.S. State Department's own list of countries that engage in torture. He could decrease the size of the U.S. military which now operates 750 bases and sites in over 100 countries, instead of advocating the increase of the military by 92,000 troops which he could further withdraw troops and resources from the wars.

He could withdraw all troops and military resources from Iraq and Afghanistan. The "surge" plan would allow more than 100,000 U.S. troops and contractors to remain. He could stop and reduce the US military to peacekeeping and training missions and remove US forces. He could order government agencies to cease covert and overt military operations against Pakistan, Syria, and Iran.

He has advocated military strikes and invasions and commissions of acts of war against sovereign nations, massive spying, torture, kidnapping, murder, assassinations, abuse of immigrants by illegal detentions and arrests, and the creation of "secret" organizations to political officials, actions, etc.

He could order the review and repeal of the Patriot Act and presidents directives that potentially give the president dictatorial powers such as Presidential Directive 51.

Barack Obama was elected by people who hope that he will fulfill the Bush regime. He is local to which this nation has taken over the last seven years of the Bush regime. However, he will not do so because the Bush regime was so successful. The political allegiance to the majority of people in this country, but rather to the small class of people who live on the exploitation of the masses here and throughout the world. These are the people who will serve, regardless of how many wishes of millions who voted for him. He may think with some of the programs of the Bush regime, but he will fail to reverse the fundamentally fascist trajectory.

I have listed a few of the actions Obama could take if he was a real agent of change. I do not expect Obama to do all of these to accomplish many of these items, but I think it is worth reflecting on how much damage has been done to our society, and then to think about what it will really take to reverse the course set by the Bush regime, and to think of ways to make real change possible.

Obama could do, but won't do, the following:

He could direct the Department of Justice to begin investigations into the various crimes of Bush administration officials and agents. These would include, but not be limited to: war crimes, illegal invasions and commissions of acts of war against sovereign nations, massive spying, torture, kidnapping, murder, assassinations, abuse of immigrants by illegal detentions and arrests, and the creation of "secret" organizations to political officials, actions, etc.

He could close down U.S.-run torture sites run by the Department of Defense (DOD) such as those in Guan- tanamo (He may close Gitmo as a public-relations move,), in Iraq, and Afghanistan which hold prisoners taken in the so-called "war on terror." He could order the DOD to begin constructing the Christian community at these sites. These would include torture, false imprisonment, and murder."

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Continued from Page Eight**

**ARSON FIRE — NEED ACTION ON PROBLEM PROPERTIES**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Last week an apparent arson fire in the parking lot of city-owned Section 8 housing at 1812 Fairview totaled two vehicles and damaged a third as power lines melted and dropped to the street. Vigorous, high flames from two totaled cars under a tree could have ignited the multi-unit building and spread to other buildings in the densely populated area. We witnessed the whole of a car days later, and spoke to a woman in the parking lot. “That’s my car,” she said. “What happened?” I asked. “Gang activity,” she replied.

At the Oct. 28 Berkeley City Council meeting, city and police agencies gave their plans to deal with alarming murders, violence and crime in southwest Berkeley. While res-


dents appreciate tree trimming, working streetlights, and pickup of dumped items, these are basic duties the city owes the taxpayers and not exceptional efforts. We were told the city is “identifying problem properties.”

We know we have problem properties such as the city-owned Section 8 housing at 1812 Fairview. Our question is: When will you take definitive action against problem properties? I invite you to view the dramatic video of the fire on YouTube. A12 Fairview St. I ask you what you would do if an arson fire of this magnitude hap-

pened in your neighborhood.

Recently, an arson fire was discovered at a BOSS trans-

iting housing unit inhabited by a man who was wanted for ques-

tioning in connection with a recent drive-by shooting and other offenses. The residence has little supervision. The meth lab put many West Berkeley residents in danger and could cost the city a great deal to clean up. I expect the insurance will cover the repairs, but will the city ever do anything to close once the arson fires and meth labs are disclosed to the insurance agencies?

When will you take definitive action against problem properties and responsible supervision in connection with a recent drive-by shooting and other serious offenses. The residence has little supervision. The insurance costs for these properties will soar and rightly so, for we are the ones the arson fires and meth labs are disclosed to the insurance companies.

Please tell us what you would do if an arson fire of this magnitude happened in your neighborhood.

—Robin Wright

**B-TECH TEACHER’S RESPONSE**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Martha Dickey’s mention, in her Nov. 20 First Person essay, of the “What Are You Grateful For?” question and its slightly sermonizing tone reminded me of the lettering first appeared on an otherwise nice green awning atop the gratitudinal restaurant on Shattuck Avenue: “I’m grateful for awnings that don’t ask me questions.”

—Sandy Rothman

**GRATEFUL**

Editors, Daily Planet:

I won’t hold my breath! I guess it’s a matter of who is for Asperger’s services in Berkeley, the College Internship Program has a ban on anyone older than 23, excluding many special needs people. With the new minimum score. Why should how a student performs for the school may alienate some who would blossom in a different environment.

So how can we conduct college admissions? At the very least, what would you do if a student is for college. Test scores should be seen as just that—test scores. Obviously a student with a high SAT score is academically at par with a student with a lower score.

Do they have curiosity? Do they want to give to the community? Do they want to find a mentor that will cultivate the student’s interest? Do they want to be a leader? Their extracurricular activities, their recommendations, and their personal statement all are better indicators of these desirable qualities.

—Sandy Rothman

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Congratulations to the Little Lectures Everywhere essay in the Nov. 20 edition: I would like to congratulate Martha Dickey for the most interesting, or should I say, amusing essay in the past week. I’m grateful for awnings that don’t ask me questions.

—Sandy Rothman

**THUGS**

Editors, Daily Planet:

I am writing to express my extreme indignation at the general lack of respect for the meaning of our country. I saw a group of thugs engage in a fight on Shattuck Avenue.

The fact is, it’s never enough! Power is addictive, and the closer one gets to a goon’s position, the more he or she values other lives, the more murderous it becomes. When one power is not absolute. There’s always one defiant person waving a banner (at least until his organization is removed from the area). Last month the university embarrassed itself by overcharging students for registration and other fees.

As for Asperger’s services in Berkeley, the College Internship Program has a ban on anyone older than 23, excluding many special needs people. With the new minimum score. Why should how a student performs for the school may alienate some who would blossom in a different environment.

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**ANTIZIONIST NETWORK**

Editors, Daily Planet:

A group calling itself International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network has published its manifesto in two parts in the Oct. 23 and 20 editions of the Daily Planet. Never having heard of such a group, I went to their website and discovered that it has been newly formed only in early October of this year. Their kick-off event was a demonstra-

**Antizionist Network**

Continued on Page Thirteen

**AUTISM**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Being a young gay man with Asperger’s is a frustrating experience. I need things to change, a lot of people in my situation need to. A lot of people at the same time, maybe a chance at a degree, a chance to learn better communica-

**Antizionist Network**

**ART OF DEMOCRACY**

Editors, Daily Planet:

After reading and re-reading Joel Teller’s letter to the editor about my colleague Art Hazelwood’s intentions...
regarding this past fall’s planned “Art of Democracy” exhibition at the Addison Street Gallery, I find it most unfortunate that Mr. Teller deemed it necessary to take such a low road, accusing Mr. Hazelwood (and his coterie) of conspiring to manufacture a publicity stunt. Let’s blame the victim and then, well, shoot the victim, too.

What impressed, amazed and continues to inspire our audiences, artists, and art critics alike is the extraordinary “high road” taken across the board by “Art of Democracy” exhibition planners, and artist participants. Speaking somewhat from the side-lines, I can however attest to the numerous internal, genuinely concerned, rational, solution-oriented communications between those concerned during the heat of the Addison Street Gallery “negotiations.”

Never was it ever remotely a fleeting idea that a “censorship issue” might make for a timely self-serving cause among any associated with the coalition. On the contrary: From the start, “Art of Democracy” exhibitions have only ever been about a healthy exchange of politically oriented ideas through the open presentation of art to the public.

Stephen A. Fredericks
National Co-Organizer,
Art of Democracy Coalition of Political Art Exhibitions

*PREPOSTEROUS NOTION*
Editors, Daily Planet:

As acting archivist and poster participant for the “Art of Democracy” coalition, I have to address this preposterous notion that Mr. Hazelwood engaged us in a deliberate censorship publicity stunt involving the Addison Street Gallery. The right to voice our political discontent is at the heart of what the “Art of Democracy” has accomplished thus far. This unprecedented level of freedom of expression is exactly what attracted such a widespread following of artists to this coalition and extended as well into the decision making processes Mr. Hazelwood has always graciously upheld. As artists, we voted and chose collectively not to exhibit our posters in a nonsensical and constricted environment that would deny visibility to any one of our participants. In a society that is increasingly vigilant in censoring, “Art of Democracy” showed a rare compassion for its outcasts and stood collectively in defense of our rights.

Selene Vasquez
Acting archivist and poster participant
Hollywood, Florida

*GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE EXPENSIVELY OUT*
Editors, Daily Planet:

I have been a customer of EBMUD since 1976. The meter reading for my home have been estimated on and off for several years now. If either end of a billing period is an estimate, the billing is an estimate. I’ve been repeatedly told by EBMUD personnel and it is also obvious from looking at the bills, estimated meter readings are not always marked “estimate.” So, my bimonthly unit estimates for the last three years are a very unfair basis for calculating water rations for my home. The only fair thing to do is to move to a water meter that can be read accurately and reliably.

*Continued on Page Fourteen*
do is have the allocations be the average allocation per household for the district.

I would also like to make a plea to have all the rationing for all households be the same, with some adjustment for number of people; not based on previous bills.

Like many other people in the East Bay, I have tried to save water by every means possible for many years. Most of my landscaping is drought tolerant except the summer vegetable garden and the roses which I only drip irrigate once a week in the dry season. The lawn was taken out many years ago. I use gray water (reuse water for multiple purposes). We low water users should not be punished like this by much higher prices and punitive rationing, for having been good citizens.

Also, it seems obvious that this whole problem came in large part because you, the EBMUD board, have continually allowed Delta water rather than the high quality Mokelumne river water and the households in those same new developments get, on average, much higher water rates, in some cases to keep watering their inappropriate lawns.

Please fix this very unfair and unworkable water rationing plan at once by making one district wide standard for reasonable water use as you have in previous droughts. Also, it more than time to ban further expansion of the EBMUD service district, without exception.

Catherine Neergaard

Kensington

FIREMEN

Editors, Daily Planet:

No one criticizes firemen. They are essential. But why did they wear their uniforms off duty when campaigning? Why did they use firetrucks to put up political signs? Why can they not control overtime? I’m told there were 37,000 overtime hours last year. Why do they really only receive one phone call per day for seven fire stations? Why do we need a measure to fund their operations, including overtime, when we have a city budget to fund these activities? Perhaps someone ought to look into this. Like the city manager. And account to the public for it.

George Oram

MAYOR DELLUMS

Editors, Daily Planet:

I wanted people to understand that I am not trying to defend Mayor Ron Dellums. I had some disagreement with him on some issues. However, I am appalled by the attacks on Mayor Dellums as a form of racial double standard because these same people were silent during the eight year reign of former mayor Jerry Brown about his misdeeds such as involving the eight year reign of former mayor Jerry Brown about his misdeeds such as Mike, he invited everyone, something like this. Like the city manager. And account to the public for it.

Billy Trice, Jr.

Oakland

FEDERAL LOAN AGENCY

Editors, Daily Planet:

Why does the federal government give billions of dollars to banks in the hope the banks will loan the money to individuals and small businesses. Isn’t this just another phony trickle-down theory and a scam to give away more billions of dollars to big business? Wouldn’t it make more sense for the federal government to become a competitor to the banks? Competition is healthy. It brings out the best in people and businesses and usually results in better opportunities for all concerned.

The federal government should set up a federal loan agency. The sole purpose of this agency would be to make loan money available to credit-worthy individuals and businesses at reasonable interest rates. The loans would be protected because of the creditworthiness of the borrowers and the loans would be secured by real property or actual interests in the assets of the businesses. The government would only secure interests if the borrowers defaulted on the loans. The vast majority of the loans would be paid off in a responsible manner. The economy would be stimulated and the populace would feel more secure. People wouldn’t have to worry about grossly mismanaged banks and the populace would feel more secure. People wouldn’t have to worry about grossly mismanaged banks and the populace would feel more secure.

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Battle Over BRT Continues

Continued from Page Four

ensures that AC Transit can go forward with negotiations with the City of Berkeley over the proposal. AC Transit officials say that while BRT is an AC Transit proposal, “the cities own the streets,” and must give approval for any substantial alteration of street-right-of-ways.

During the campaign, many Measure KK proponents said that the measure was specifically designed to halt AC Transit District’s proposal to establish bus-only lanes along Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, part of the district’s ambitious proposal to set up a Bus Rapid Transit line between downtown San Leandro, downtown Oakland, and downtown Berkeley.

While some Measure KK opponents said during the campaign that the measure would block Berkeley’s advancement towards a more efficient transit system, the site actually improved transit and protected our environment...

But during presentations at a special AC Transit Board BRT workshop on Wednesday, proponents and opponents abruptly switched fields, with Measure KK proponents now telling AC Transit officials that the Measure KK defeat was not an indication of BRT sentiment in Berkeley because the defeat was caused solely by deceptive advertising fueled by campaign money brought in by outside interests.

“I wanted to come tonight so that (AC Transit) did not think you had a mandate from that election that went on in Berkeley,” Berkeley resident Martha Jones said during the meeting’s public comment period.

Jones then held up a blown-up version of one of the more famous campaign mailers of the November 2008 season, a “No On KK” brochure that featured a poignant pitch as the way to stop BRT on Telegraph Avenue. So the campaign literature الفرنسي漫步 the Measure KK vote.

And Mary Oram, treasurer of the Advocates for Voter Approved Transit, a pro KK committee, said that the financial contributions for the two sides was a good estimate of the relative level of local feeling about BRT and KK. Oram estimated that “7 percent of the [anti-KK] money came from individuals, the rest came from special interest groups and companies that would benefit from BRT if it were ever put in. All of the [pro KK] money came from individuals and community associations in Berkeley.”

Oram’s husband, George Oram, added that the BRT proposal does not provide along Telegraph Avenue “any service that has been asked for or endorsed by the bus riders on Telegraph Avenue or the residents on Telegraph Avenue or the merchants on Telegraph Avenue, and we believe we’re going to stop you.”

Meanwhile, some Measure KK opponents are now saying that AC Transit should move forward with the planning and approval process for BRT in Berkeley because of the overwhelming support for the project demonstrated in the Measure KK vote.

Berkeley resident Alan Tobey, treasurer of the No On KK campaign, who describes himself as “unapologetically responsible for the polar bear,” said that even though KK “literally didn’t [propose opposition to BRT], its campaign was pitched as the way to stop BRT on Telegraph Avenue. So the campaign literature and the many meetings I attended, the pitch was to vote for KK was to vote against the BRT project. We’ve learned that 77 percent of Berkeley residents disagreed with that proposition and said at this point we have no problem with BRT so far.”
Tango dance lesson at 7:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $40-$42.

Ave.

Dance lesson at 8 p.m. at 7 p.m. at La Pita Cultural Center. Cost is $10. 649-2500.

MUSIC AND DANCE

DANCE

Children

COPPelia, the Doll with the Porcelain Eyes” a puppet show at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 2568. www.lapena.org

Friday, Nov. 28

MUSIC AND DANCE

Mixa Vay Oktach at 8 and 10 p.m. at Yosh’s at Jack London Square. Cost is $15. 642-9940.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

CHILDREN

First Stage Children’s Theatre’s “A Christmas Carol” runs from Nov. 27-Dec. 20. Tickets are $35-$43.

TUESDAY, DEC. 2

MUSIC AND DANCE

Vince Ho, Christmas pastoral organist at 7:30 p.m. at St. Albans’ Episcopal Church, 1548 Shattuck Ave. Free, donations welcome. 525-1762.

Loose Wigel at 8 p.m. at Anna’s Jazz Island, 2120 Allston Way. Cost is $10. 548-2497.

Salsa dance lessons at 8:30 p.m. at Yosh’s at Jack London Square. Cost is $10. 642-9940.

THURSDAY, DEC. 4

MUSIC AND DANCE

MUSIC AND DANCE

Nursha Project of the Oakland Ballet’s “Christmas Carol” runs from Dec. 9-20. Tickets are $5-$15.

READINGS AND LECTURES

International Body Music Festival’s soundscapes of body music with Crosspipe Artist Keith Terry and others at 8 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 10th and Oak St. Tickets are $5. 510-228-2200.

Osama Neumann reads from “Up Against the Wall Mothers” at 7 p.m. at 924 2nd St., Oakland. Cost is $6. 924-2200.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Sauce Piquante at 8:30 p.m at Ashkenaz. Cajun dance lesson at 8 p.m. Cost is $10. 525-5054.

Nursha Project of the Oakland Ballet’s “Christmas Carol” runs from Dec. 9-20. Tickets are $5-$15.

SATURDAY, NOV. 29

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By KEN BULLOCK
Special to the Planet

The hook is perhaps the greatest, besides the most famous, narrative device of all time: a ruler, cheated on by his consort, marries again and again—but only for a night, executing each new bride at dawn. When he demands the hand of his prime minister's daughter, the young woman proves resourceful, telling him enchanting stories that spawn new tales, each posing a cliffhanger as morning arrives. Many nights go by, and she is spared each dawn, until she presents her overwhelmed husband with the children he has fathered.

Jorge Luis Borges, an ardent admirer, remarked that each of the various titles this medieval collection is known by has an equally beautiful ring: “A Thousand Nights and a Night,” in its original Arabic; “A Thousand and One Nights” in most European languages—and in English, The Arabian Nights, which Mary Zimmerman calls her newest venture, now onstage at Berkeley Rep.

The Rep’s production, which Zimmerman wrote during rehearsal and directed, retells Scherezade and Shahryar’s story and the tale-telling that sprang from it. The cast of 15, many who have worked with Zimmerman before, play multiple parts, all at one point or another becoming storytellers. There’s the music of dumbek and oud, touches of dance, and much movement theater across Daniel Ostling’s set, strewn with carpets and pillows, with lamps lowered from the flies, on The Rep's angular Thrust Stage. As the modular vignettes string out into full-blown stories, interrupted by intersecting tales-within-tales, the air of improvisation hangs like perfume in the air.

In some ways, that’s the strongest flavor, despite the true virtuosity of the original tales and the efforts of the young cast—in particular, Sofia Jean Perez as Scherezade and Jesse J. Perez and Melina Kalomas in various roles—to bring them to life. But with all the well-meaning intent (Zimmerman said she was inspired by The Nights’ opposite, media spins on the Mideast since the Gulf War), competence of execution, and attempts to bring across cultural nuances, like the rich hyperbole of the high caliphal medieval prose, the synaesthesia of setting, music, movement, voice, even scent—what once was admiringly referred to as “Oriental”—the production can’t shake something of the banality of sketch comedy routines or the resonance of cable TV.

Modern theater has been, in some ways, the search for marriage between the episode, the tableau (or “pregnant moment”) and that oxymoron, the spontaneous act of rigorous movement. Soviet director V.S. Meyerhold called a way he staged scenes with acrobatic movement to bring out or counterpoint meaning “attractions,” from circus parlance. Many of these techniques found their way into improv exercises, from which sprang contemporary sketch comedy, and emulations of the old avant-garde in performance art—which, often media-driven, can resemble improv comedy routines, which the media has embraced.

Zimmerman’s Arabian Nights has too much sense of riffing, of being “bitty.” The profound, sometimes contradictory sensibilities of the original tales and how they intertwine can be better found in some of the—curiously incomplete—adaptations and inspired emulations of The Arabian Nights: Jan Potocki’s Manuscript Found in Saragossa (inspired as he read The Nights to his sick wife), but not the extraordinary and hilariously acted film by Wojcek Has, Saragossa Manuscript, tale told within delirious tale in flashback. Neither is Pier Paolo Pasolini’s Arabian Nights (last of a trilogy of tale-telling, after The Decameron and The Canterbury Tales)—or the work of two close to theater and improvisation, innovators of new ways to weave diverse strands into open-ended, ongoing stories, beyond the heady brew, even, of “magical realism”: Jacques Rivette, Raul Ruiz.
Impact Theatre Stages ‘Tailgrass Gothic’ at La Val’s

By KEN BULLOCK  Special to the Planet

Tailgrass Gothic, Impact’s production of Melanie Mannich’s new play, in the netherworld below La Val’s Pizzeria, cleverly resets Middlegame and Rowley’s harrowing tragedy of 1622 in the modern American Midwest (after the bloody conclusion to Skin of Our Teeth). Impact’s last Jacobean thriller, ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore, ‘Heartland’ already takes on a certain tone of mourning.

On Sarah Cookeynk’s set—a bed strewn with hay, aigue implements along the walls and a leatherette backseat of a car—thrown over wooden crates as a bench—the action plays out: adversity in a tight, church-going community, where everybody knows everybody else. And everybody seems to talk to each other, or them—everybody knows everybody else. And everybody seems to talk to each other, or themselves, over a beer, about what they imagine is happening in everybody else’s lives, or about whether they believe in strange appearances, ghost stories...

Directed by Maya Morita, using every inch of the little basement playing area, the plot unfolds on this combination of film noir with daytime TV, wisely without intermission: Laura (Mayra Gnaa) can’t get over her intoxication with Daniel (Chris Celotti) or her aversion to her abusive husband Tim (Jorene Rende), in which turn with any and all rough bills to his buddy Scootto (Bryain Quinn), showering Scootto’s hints of Laura’s infidelity with bewitching invective—Laura’s confidante is her old friend Mary (Elissa Dunn), who has more than a sisterly affection for her friend. One of the clever links to the Jacobean stage is Mary’s sword-swallowing act with her brother’s discarded blade—’Tis just a trick!”—and its repetition later under more ghastly, but still tricky, circumstances. As on the ancient English stage, there are both portents and appearances, naturalized to the workaday homilies of America’s Breadbasket.

Lurking almost in the shadows is the strangely smiling loner, Feline (Stace Sad- owksi), “not a body with a scar—a body” who offers his services to Laura out of a perversity, not expecting because she’s caught his eye—as different.

Sadowski and Dunn have the plum roles in two of the kind of shows. As Orson Welles put it, Renaissance English tragedy is close to melodrama, and in melodrama, the villain is always more interesting than the hero. Or heroine. Both take the bloody baton and run with it. But, as in ‘Tis Pity, Satan’s visionary—players—and the play—come through when it counts, up to the quick, admirably dry—Laura’s manner calls her play actually a ghost story, a tale about being haunted by one’s desires, actions and mistakes.” When the script and the show bring that to the fore, it’s most theatrical, paradoxically a palpa- ble feeling—warmth, sound, scent, smell, taste ... was it Democritus who wrote, “All senses are forms of touch”?

“ancient English stage,” there are both discarded blade—“It’s just a trick!”—and links to the Jacobean stage is Mary’s affection for her friend. One of the clever

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

CHILDREN

Los Amiguitos de La Peña with Colibrí at 10:30 a.m. at La Peña. Cost is $5 for adults, $4 for children. 2456-6289.

Tony Brothers Puppets for 3-7 year olds at 10 a.m. at Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Ketttridge St., 3rd Fl., 981-6223.

“The Babies Sleep” with illustrator Paul Tung at 1 p.m. at Museum of Children’s Art, 539 Ninth St., Suite 210, Oakland. 416-8770. www.moma.org.

Jean Paul Valjean’s “Short Attention Span Circus” Sat. and Sun. at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Children’s Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Cost is $6. 452-2239. www.fairyland.org.

Andy Z at 11 a.m. at Studio Groove, 1233 10th St. Cost is $7. 526-9888.

EXHIBITIONS

“Lines of Communication” A group art show at 4th Street Art Center, 1414 7th St. Reception at 7 p.m. at www.fourthstreetart.com.

PLAYS

“Theater: Playback Theatre” Personal stories shared by audience members instantly transformed by the ensemble into Impressionistic painted theatre pieces at 8 p.m. at Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are $12-$15. 595-3500, ext. 25. www.tbivillecenter.org.

San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra Renaissance and modern mandolin compositions at 7:30 p.m. at St. Albans’ Episcopal Church, 1301 Washington Ave., Albany. Cost is $10-$25. 525-1716.

Oakland-East Bay Gay Men’s Chorus “Oh What Fun, A Holiday Variety Show” at 7:30 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m. at Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Tickets are $12-$20. 841-2082.

Philharmonia Baroque “Natare Barocco” Scarlatti, Corelli, vivace and more at 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2040 Center. Tickets are $5-$21. 425-272-1288.

Contra Costa Choral and Kensington Symphony Orchestra “Tidings of Joy” at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Berkeley, 1st. One Law- rsen, Kensington. Admission is free. 537-2026.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. at 20th Street Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Tickets are $10-$20. 841-JAZZ.

Senior Chember Symphony Fall Concert at 8 p.m. at the Park Ridge Library, 3666 College Ave., Oakland. Free. 684-6562.

Bay Area Poets Coalition open reading from 1 to 3 p.m. at Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St. Park on the street. 846-0698.

Harold Davis, featured artist in “100 Views of the Golden Gate” at 7 p.m. at Black Oak Books. 846-0698.

www.blackoakbooks.com

MUSIC AND DANCE

Berkeley Community Chorus & Orchestra “The Geography of Emotions” Selections with the Oakland Opera Chorus at 8 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, 1301 Shattuck Ave. Tickets are $12-$15.595-3500, ext. 25. www.tbivillecenter.org.

“The Devil Makes Three, the Folk Cellist at 9 p.m. at The Stag Plough. Cost is $13. 841-2082.

New West Fest at 7 p.m. at 924 Gilman St. Cost is $8. 525-9926.

Cato Barbiere at 8 and 10 p.m. at Yoshi’s at Jack London Square. Cost is $18-$23. 518-9200.

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Deal in which they were promised but never paid $254,000, the Guidivilles sued Levine and Harrah’s in a federal tribunal in 1987, winning recognition in a settlement four years later.

Levine said he would establish their reservation, Levine said, “Congress gave them one mechanism. Indian gaming.”

“Levine, like most casino advocates dating back to the founding of the Nevada Gaming Association, always uses the word ‘gaming’ to define the business, a semantic gymnastics to distinguish the PlayStation and Xboxes, rather than the more precise but grittier ‘gaming’ to describe blackjack and derivatives.”

The other sorts of green will come, he said from payments to the city of $450 million for an estimated 25 years of the site and public service mitigation costs, while the casino, hotels, shopping mall, restaurants andendum.”

“Even the room keys are to be green, with the card system automatically doing away with the need for keys and quarters to go out to play. Much of the electricity they do burn will come from the two hydroelectric systems, the Point Molate casino will be run by another arm of a tribe is not a citizen of any state,” according to the justices ruled.

“We had a long discussion, and we concluded that a tribe must invoke immunity. In his opinion concurring with the decision, Justice Ronald M. Gould wrote: “I question whether that is the case here.”

“In my view, the tribes have the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs the land trust to build a casino could come as soon as late next year, Levine said.

Levine said, “We fired Harrah’s,” while Levine’s initial proposal had promised $100 million from Chevron alone.

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DOONESBURY
G. B. Trudeau

The coming week is likely to present a number of challenges that require each and every individual to dig deep into his or her bag of tricks and come up with strategies and tactics that are not only creative and unique but that really work. Indeed, everyone will have something to offer that is a telling indicator of his or her personality, motives and ambitions; those who like to keep things closer to the vest will have to work hard to avoid revealing too much—even though full disclosure is the surest road to success. Some may find that first impressions are dead-on, and can lead to some exciting discoveries and meaningful relationships that develop quickly and last a long time. Others, on the other hand, are sure to find that the first impression is the least reliable. Care must always be taken.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 7) -- You may find yourself gravitating toward those who do not necessarily share your opinions or beliefs. Or do they? (Dec. 8-Dec. 21) -- The time has come for you to step up and do your part to see that the change you desire really comes to pass.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 6) -- You may find yourself working long hours in order to stay ahead of the competition—and the clock. Creative measures pay off. (Jan. 7-Jan. 19) -- Arrivals and departures will be a big part of your week. Now is not the time for extraneous baggage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 3) -- What begins as a contentious relationship is likely to be transformed into something that is desirable for all concerned. (Feb. 4-Feb 18) -- You can derive a great deal of comfort and motivation from a memory you’ve kept deep in your heart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 6) -- The old and the new can combine into something that surprises you and those working both for and against you. (March 7-March 20) -- Progress can be quite swift, with victory appearing over the horizon before you know it.

ARIES (March 21-April 4) -- You’ll not only discover a talent you never knew you had, you’ll be able to put it to satisfying and profitable use right away. (April 5-April 19) -- You may be trying to capture lightning in a bottle. Focus on gains you can measure and rely on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 5) -- You are searching for something that you feel is the missing piece. A friend or loved one can steer you in the right direction. (May 6-May 20) -- This is not the time to hide yourself away. There is no way to get around current obstacles except by keeping communication open at all times.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 7) -- You’ll make contacts that can prove valuable over the long haul. Be sure, however, that you bring something to the table as well. The value of certain activities may be questionable to some, but you know that you’re doing the right things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 7) -- What begins as fun and games may become quite serious by the weekend. After-dark activities yield surprising rewards. (Nov. 8-Nov. 21) -- It’s a good week for clearing the air when it comes to minor conflicts between friends.

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Complete the grids so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1-9 inclusively. The answers to these puzzles can be found on the following page.

Notice: the first Sylvia is a rerun, this due to our early publish date this week.

Golden Gate Fields

Another concern for Albany, which collects revenues from bets placed at the track itself but not from the far larger number of wagers off-track.

As one solution to Magna's declining revenues, Stronach's company has partnered with Los Angeles mall developer Rick Caruso.

A proposal to build one of Caruso's "lifestyle centers" at Golden Gate was torpedoed by Albany voters, despite Caruso's promises that the venture would bring at least $2 million a year of new revenues into city coffers.

While the Albany plan foundered, the Santa Anita mall had been moving forward with what Caruso's company calls "825,000 square feet of one-of-a-kind shopping, dining and community space," located in "24 acres of richly landscaped plazas."

According to Caruso's website, that opening is now slated for fall 2010.

But Lieber said that date is in dispute, given a July ruling by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant.

"Their whole EIR was thrown out," he said, referring to the environmental impact report required by state law which must examine a whole spectrum of physical and cultural impacts arising from creation of major construction-related projects.

Chalfant's 59-page ruling was slightly narrower than an outright dismissal of the document. He found the EIR deficient on 11 specific grounds, including traffic mitigation and air quality, and ordered the Arcadia City Council to set aside its earlier approval of the document and recirculate a revised document that addresses the deficiencies he cited.
Brighton's guidelines, but when it was time to put up the work, he brought different work, including the four posters depicting guns, violence and weaponry which he had agreed not to show.

Hazelwood said that although Brighton had told him of the guidelines prohibiting violence, he had assumed at the time he presented the selected set of posters to her that she would judge them on their merit instead of some vague guidelines.

Until last Wednesday, the city did not have any formal guidelines for the Addison Street Windows Gallery, which was started by the late Brenda Prager more than 10 years ago.

“At the beginning I thought I was dealing with a curator who would look at work,” Hazelwood said. “At the end it turned out to be a simple act of censorship ... I am just the organizer, I left it to the artists to do whatever they wanted.”

Brighton said Wednesday that Hazelwood had stated at a Civic Arts Commission meeting that he had deliberately misled her to make his point of censorship.

Hazelwood said his actions had been more of an act of civil disobedience, and that the accusation had been taken out of context. He told the commission that his actions were committed in good faith and the work was comparable to what Rosa Parks did in a public bus in Montgomery, Ala., 43 years ago.

The National Coalition Against Censorship and the American Civil Liberties Union wrote to Mayor Tom Bates and the Berkeley City Council urging them to defend free expression and uphold Berkeley’s proud tradition of free speech.

“We while sympathize with the city’s desire for a world without guns or violence,” wrote Svetlana Mintcheva, director of NCAC’s arts program, in a letter to the mayor. “We realize that there was a significant interest—in security, public safety or the like.”

Mintcheva went on to say that while the incident involving the four Art of Democracy posters, which express strong views on U.S. foreign policy, is a clear example of the type of serious issues the First Amendment guarantees citizens rights to press ideas or points of view with a high degree of consideration for citizen’s sensitivities to violence, sexual expression and portrayal of diverse populations.

Additionally, artists and community members will now be able to appeal to the commission if they have concerns about curatorial judgment at the gallery.

Caplan said that the entire incident had turned attention issues on curatorial judgment.

“We realized that there was need for the curator to not just select the artists but also the artwork,” he said.

“So it was important that her contract be amended because it wasn’t specific enough and wasn’t set up for curation.”

The new guidelines state that artwork would be selected on its aesthetic merits and that the curatorial function involves looking at the art work and making aesthetic decisions.

Art of Democracy organizers called upon her to select and judge them on their merit instead of some vague guidelines prohibiting violence, which they have faced any problem except in Berkeley.

The ACLU warned city officials that by creating a gallery without any ‘explicit limitations on what topics or images may be displayed, the city had designated the space as a public forum, where the First Amendment guaranteed the curator’s authority to exclude art based on its content.

Although the curator of a government-sponsored art show necessarily exercises broad discretion in determining what will or will not be displayed, that discretion cannot be used to suppress ideas or points of view with which the curator disagrees,” wrote Michael T. Risher, an attorney for ACLU. “Banning all depictions of firearms constitutes content-based censorship. And it works to suppress the view that guns, whatever one’s opinion of them, are a part of our history and our current world ... The proper role of firearms in our society is one that evokes strong feelings on all sides of the debate.”

Citing the city’s press release for the display of Art of Democracy, which promised it would address “immigration raids, police surveillance, lost liberty and war,” Risher said that to invite artists to address war, but insist that they do not depict a gun, was not curatorial discretion.

“It is censorship,” he wrote. “Lost liberty indeed.”

Following ACLU’s letter, the Acting City Attorney Zach Cowan called on the city’s Economic Development Manager Michael Caplan and Civic Art commissioners Dave Blake and David Snippen to discuss the current guidelines.

We were advised by the city attorney that if we were actually going to have curated space, we need to have guidelines,” Caplan said. “The problem is that there had never been a standard. We learned a lot from the whole thing and we ended up better.

The new guidelines state that artwork would be selected on its aesthetic merits and that the curatorial function involves looking at the art work and making aesthetic decisions.

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“We realized that there was need for the curator to not just select the artists but also the artwork,” he said.

“So it was important that her contract be amended because it wasn’t specific enough and wasn’t set up for curation,” she said. “I think it’s great.”
continued from page three

Paltz, N.Y., and brand-new Bay Area resident Jason West, former Green mayor of New Haven, is running for State Assembly and Camejo's 2002 and 2004 gubernatorial running mate, for President of the United States. “He’s got a million friends,” Ritterman complained.

Continued from Page Four

for immigrant rights and, after 9/11, worked on bringing immigrants and freedom from hate for Muslim citizens.

Camejo wrote books on political activism, American history and socially responsible investing. He founded or co-founded progressive political action groups such as the North Star Network (1983) and IDEIA PAC (2005), and he sparked growth in many others, such as the Green Party. Among his many accomplishments, he runs a website www.childrenofiran.com and is a founding member of the South Asian Medical Relief Fund and the South Asian American Medical Funds.

 richterman said that the majority really didn’t represent the interests of the community, and when it became clear who was running for mayor this time, I decided to enter the race he said.

And while Beckles’ loss didn’t give the convention-goers time to finish it, his editor, Leslie Cowan said that “settlement agreement, adding that “it’s a joy to find out about them to transition to alternate forms of energy and a sustainable future.”

Peter Camejo

Continued from Page Four

Richmond’s Newest Councilmember

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City’s Verizon Settlement Proves a Minor Embarrassment

He would not elaborate, only telling Worthington that “had you been at the closed council meeting, you’d understand why.”

The Brown Act allows a public body to withhold information on closed door rati-

Continued from Page One

The Verizon settlement agreement came at last in public session at the Nov. 18 City Council meeting in which the council considered hearing an appeal of a Verizon City of Berkeley settlement agreement approval of a ten antenna cell phone facility at 1540 Shattuck Ave.

Making no attempt to hold on a hearing on the appeal. In the background section of the staff report, Development Director and former Planning Department Director Daniel Marks wrote, “On August 8, 2007, Verizon filed a law-

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Peter Camejo

Peter Camejo

continued from page three

especially with the way they handled the Chapman case.

Another issue that raised his level of frustration was the council’s refusal to approve the city’s right to depose people who would include windows that occupants could open.

He pointed out that the majority really didn’t represent the interests of the community, and when it became clear who was running for mayor this time, I decided to enter the race he said.

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Classified scams are frequently submitted to the Daily Planet. 99% of these are filtered through our system. However, occasionally one will slip through our filters. Please be advised never to give out personal information when responding to any classified advertisement.

All scams are reported to the FBI. Should you suspect any ads publishing in the Berkeley Daily Planet to be fraudulent, please contact us immediately at classifieds@berkeleydailyplanet.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fictitious Business Name(s)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO.: 419172
Fictitious Business Name(s) and Location:
Denny You
2403QQ Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704

This business is conducted by:
Denny You
Ren Li Lin
Ren Yi Lin

The registrant commenced to conduct business under the above-listed fictitious name or names on: November 26, 2008.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct:
Denny You

By:
Denny You

This Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda County on: November 26, 2008.

ATTENTION REALTORS
Listed properties online and in print in the Berkeley Daily Planet’s real estate section every Thursday Display Ads starting at $50. Contact Maria 510-841-5600 ext.120

Events & Tickets

YWCA YOUNG WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
Saturday, December 6th at Oakland Convention Center 1001 Broadway in Oakland. Learn the street smarts of money, good credit, balancing your checks, paying bills and all the inside scoop. Register online www.ywca-berkeley.org or call 510-988-6000.

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Help Wanted

BYKERDAK BAKERY
NEEDED
Experience desirable, will acquire. Must be flexible for swing shifts. DMV printout required. Must. A.M. and P.M. deliveries. Week. Weekend Driving a Full-Time 32-40 Hours/ ext.120

Help Wanted

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
If he is not in please leave your name and phone number.

ARCHIVE INTERNSHIP
Office: (510) 763-0173

Jefferson Hotel
Daily $49, weekly $165+, maid service, private bath, close to BART.

ALBANY
Large 1BDRM
Very Clean, Sunny, Refrigerator, Stove, Laundry Room w/hook-up for Washer&Dryer, Hardwood Floors, Close to BART.

WASHINGTON
1BDRM
(510) 685-5941

BAYVIEW
One bedroom 9th Floor
$1150/month

HELP WANTED

Refridgerator, Stove, for Washer&Dryer,
Hardwood Floors, Close to BART.

MALTE PREFERRED
A place to lie your head. $250/month. First and last. See to appreciate. Call, invest in 2A/800-1479.

OPEN HOUSE
New 2 bedrooms starting @ $2025. 2 blocks from Cal, 1 block from Shattuck, Garage Parking, 6 free wi-fi, cat friendly.

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do other than Mr. Dellums and his wife, Cynthia, and neither of them appears to be sharing those insights at the present time. Cynthia, and neither of them appears to be sadly lacking in the basics of arithmetic. While Mr. Dellums' poll numbers and approval rating are currently down from 95% in 2004 to 57% in 2008. Nothing that Mr. Perata believes it will. The criticism that Mr. Dellums has not especially his ambitious promise last January to bring the department up to full uniform strength by the end of the year. In fact, Oakland now has more police on the beat than at any time in its history, and the accomplish- ment directly attributable to Mayor Dellums. The mayor has also—as promised—brought millions of extra public and private dollars into Oakland, something which has helped keep city programs afloat in these bad economic times. Dellums' biggest problem in this area is that he has failed to keep city residents informed of these accomplishments. I don’t want to minimize this problem, but at the same time, it is a problem that is easily rectified. The criticism that Mr. Dellums has not been visible in the community is also easily corrected, if the mayor chooses to. He can do so simply by spending 2009 accomplishing an ambitious community outreach agenda, speaking at meetings and attend- ing neighborhood functions. If he were to do so, by next December, about the time the 2010 mayoral election was heating up, the issue of lack of mayoral visibility in the community would be, well, no longer an issue.

There are other Oakland problems not as easily solved, and they may become factors in the 2010 election. While we can anticipate, no one can exactly say that far into the future. My point is that Ron Dellums remains the most formidable politician in Oakland, one of the few able public speakers of our time and a man with enormous political talents and savvy, and the idea that his political enemies are advancing that the mayor does not have the energy—or is somehow too soon—to run for a second term is a little like whistling past a grave- yard in the hopes that the bad old ghost won’t come scaring out. As I said, I have no special insight as to whether Mr. Del- lums will run again in 2010. I just believe that anyone who actually counts the mayor out—before he makes that decision or barring other, unforeseen events—is sadly lacking in the basics of arithmetic.
Berkeley is full of storied buildings, but few can boast the sheer historic wealth concealed within the walls of the Neo-Georgian brick mansion overlooking Hamilton Creek at 2425 Hillside Avenue. Since 1971 the home of the Tibetan Nyingma Meditation Center (Padma Ling), the building had altogether different beginnings, as well as a different appearance.

It began its life circa 1890, on a double lot in the Batchelder tract, built as the home of Charles Denslow Ford (b. 1858), a member of 1904, the Oakland Tribune reported Foye to Charles C. Hall. In December 1906, Foye sold Hall the rest of Block B for a reported $1,000.

Charles Crocker Hall (1836-1914) was a highly regarded college preparatory. He was the son of John Hall, a Yale graduate, county treasurer and work in its San Francisco office.

In 1873, Ford moved to Oakland for the benefit of his children's education. His eldest son, Chester, succeeded him in the business, which was now called the Mendocino Lumber Company. The second son, Charles, would become the company's treasurer and work in its San Francisco office.

About 1883, Charles married the statuesque Nellie Lincoln. Seven years later, they built an imposing Victorian house on Hillside Avenue in Berkeley. At the time, the area was open land consisting of grassy slopes and wooded canyons; little stood in the way of the uninterrupted vistas opening to the north, west, and south. Perhaps this house was too isolated. As the Fords' daughter Aline reached "coming out" age, the family decamped for San Francisco.

Aline, reportedly as handsome as her mother, bore five children and found an eligible husband in Lewis Pierce, a wealthy Solano County stock rancher.

In 1889, the Fords' Berkeley house was acquired by another Charles, this one the Maine-born master mariner Charles Edward Foye (1830-1913). Still active in his seventieth year, Captain Foye made the acquisition shortly after moving his office from San Francisco to Oakland. Foye and his wife Harriet were childless, but their household usually included some relatives. Apparently the Berkeley residence was less than ideal, for Foye returned to San Francisco the following year, although he continued to own the house until the summer of 1904.

On Aug. 2, 1904, the Oakland Tribune published a deed transfer of four lots in Block B of the Batchelder tract—including the Foye house—from Charles and Harriet et Foye to Charles C. Hall. In December 1906, Foye sold Hall the rest of Block B for a reported $1,000.

Charles Crocker Hall (1836-1914) was a highly educated man who eventually became the gathering place for local intellectuals and abolitionists.

In 1858, Francis sold the store to his younger brothers, Frederick (b. 1827) and Charles Crocker, and the following year departed for Japan in the wake of Townsend Harris's newly negotiated treaty of Amity and Commerce with that country. During his seven years in Japan, he wrote close to seventy articles for Horace Greeley's New York Tribune. An abridged version of his 900-page journal is available in paperback as Japan Through American
Cantor: Termite Baiting and Integrated Pest Management

Continued from Page Twenty-Eight

After many years of development, IPM as a science and practice has organized itself to the point where it has six clearly segregated tactics or prongs, if you will. With any luck, it is possible to take them one at a time.

1. Biological controls. A very exciting area of IPM is the use of microorganisms, those insects that this was IPM? Use of microorganisms a carton of ladybugs bought at the nursery that these insects are natural enemies and physically removing snails from plants is the cornerstone of IPM. A strategy of control. Monitoring or study is understanding the limitations of these insect reproduction or food gathering biological processes (local termites don’t like.)

2. Mechanical methods. In the building trades, removal of infested timber would be the cornerstone of IPM. Some species of termites inhabit the U.S. (a significant portion of which is on the move from Florida to Texas to Ohio and Pennsylvania, and generally speaking to the north.)

3. Chemical controls. Nothing too surprising here. Every year, the EPA pulls another few chemicals off the shelf because of ill-effects of various giant molecules (often found cancerous) as another hundred species of termites (and other pests) creates diversity in toxicity greatly and range from those made from the lovely Chrysanthemum to the toxic nicotine (they told you it wasn’t good for your health right?). Some pesticides merely retard development of a species such as making a new skin (chitin in the case of the mighty termite) and do not, that is, kill the termite itself. New techniques of pest control have evolved that is constantly tricking termites to commit suicide.

How can this methodology be used to address termite issues at your house? Some techniques that may work for your locale include:

- Termites baiting system. The method can be applied by using the termite baiting system.
- Termite control using soil treatment.
- using perforated piping and cardboard tubes.
- Termite control using stickers.
- Termite control using traps.

As of 1990 research in this volume (I imagine that this is a very good reference book on the subject.) one of its earliest and longest-serving face was Charles Perry. As I write this article, I see these as I walk around houses from time to time but until contacting Bill Quarles even specifies some relatively safe homeowner (can it be you, dear reader?).

Continued from Page Twenty-Six

large termite colonies...a dosage that won't alert the termite or kill them prior to sharing the spoils (so to speak) and then only one in 1000 parts per millionth the dose of a chemical otherwise poses no single part of these systems appeared ill-effects of various giant molecules (often found cancerous) as another hundred species of termites (and other pests) creates diversity in toxicity greatly and range from those made from the lovely Chrysanthemum to the toxic nicotine (they told you it wasn’t good for your health right?). Some pesticides merely retard development of a species such as making a new skin (chitin in the case of the mighty termite) and do not, that is, kill the termite itself. New techniques of pest control have evolved that is constantly tricking termites to commit suicide.

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Continued from Page Twenty-Eight

Eyes: The Journal of Francis Hall, 1859-1866. Quick to seize a commercial opportuni- ty, Mrs. Benson stated, Amidst great hubbub, Mrs. Benson stated, declaring to the Oakland Tribune that next year saw her the president of the Alameda County Equal Suffrage Club (the president was Mary McHenry Keith, wife of the famous senator), and by the Palladian windows—a feature most often associated with a dosage that won't alert the termite or kill them prior to sharing the spoils (so to speak) and then only one in 1000 parts per millionth the dose of a chemical otherwise poses no single part of these systems appeared ill-effects of various giant molecules (often found cancerous) as another hundred species of termites (and other pests) creates diversity in toxicity greatly and range from those made from the lovely Chrysanthemum to the toxic nicotine (they told you it wasn’t good for your health right?). Some pesticides merely retard development of a species such as making a new skin (chitin in the case of the mighty termite) and do not, that is, kill the termite itself. New techniques of pest control have evolved that is constantly tricking termites to commit suicide.

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Termite Baiting and Integrated Pest Management

Year ago, my friend Stan Millstein, a protohippie from Brooklyn who, like many, moved to L.A. in the 1960s turned on, tuned in and dropped everything. In L.A., Stan joined a C.R. or consciousness-raising group, which was essential a bull session. This group seemed primarily interested in tackling ethical problems. They decided to look at mouse traps and figure out which one worked best and was most ethical. They looked at a lot of mouse traps (this is before the sticky ones). Was it better to let the mouse die slowly in a trap or to smash it to death instantly? What of poisons? Would the kids get to them or the cat? In the end and after much discussion, Stan said, “We decided to live with the mouse.” Mice aren’t all that bad and we could probably all be better about cleaning the kitchen and scaling up the food.

I don’t think that Stan knew anything about IPM (integrated pest management) but, whether he knew it or not, he had become, at least, to some degree, a practitioner. IPM goes back to the years following the Second World War and, like many good things, began in California. The essential idea, which many of us now take for granted, was that a multi-pronged approach was preferable to one of search-and-destroy. (Even the CIA figured out that it was better to strategically take out a leader than to annihilate an entire population, but that’s a little Machiavellian for this discussion.)

Death and Change in the Forest

I remind myself that the Tarot card with Death on it is supposed to mean “change.” As I get older, though, and see more death than change, it gets to be more of a personal threat, an insult of sorts.

The disease caused by Phytophthora ramorum, called “Sudden Oak Death Syndrome,” felt pretty personal right from the start. I’d marveled at oaks even before I met California’s natives. When I was a distracted gradeschool kid in Pennsylvania, I spent a lot of time gazing out the classroom windows at a great old oak that presided over a grassy hill half a mile away, not thinking much at all, my mind filled with the perception of that upright, weathered, gnarl-limbed matriarch. When I got old enough to go off alone, I rode my blue bike up the road and dragged it up the hill and sat with my back against that oak for hours, just basking and watching. I don’t remember much from those hours except for the steady living presence that embraced me.

Most of us don’t remember, but something like SODS happened to the great eastern forests of North America. In the early 20th Century, a fungus, Cryphonectria parasitica, entered North America under the bark of some imported Asian chestnut seedlings. It didn’t kill its original hosts, but it thrived and spread in the new environment, killing millions of chestnuts.

Green Neighbors

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By Ron Sullivan

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Green Neighbors

By Ron Sullivan

The disease caused by Phytophthora ramorum, called “Sudden Oak Death Syndrome,” felt pretty personal right from the start. I’d marveled at oaks even before I met California’s natives. When I was a distracted gradeschool kid in Pennsylvania, I spent a lot of time gazing out the classroom windows at a great old oak that presided over a grassy hill half a mile away, not thinking much at all, my mind filled with the perception of that upright, weathered, gnarl-limbed matriarch. When I got old enough to go off alone, I rode my blue bike up the road and dropped it up the hill and sat with my back against that oak for hours, just basking and watching. I don’t remember much from those hours except for the steady living presence that embraced me.

Most of us don’t remember, but something like SODS happened to the great eastern forests of North America. In the early 20th Century, a fungus, Cryphonectria parasitica, entered North America under the bark of some imported Asian chestnut seedlings. It didn’t kill its original hosts, but it thrived and spread in the new environment, killing millions of chestnuts.