Berkeley Mourns Mumbai Terrorist Attacks

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

The Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai used to be a place filled with happy memories for Anil Thakkar and his family. Not anymore.

The coordinated attacks on India’s commercial capital from Nov. 26 to Nov. 29, which left at least 174 people dead and more than 239 injured, took the life of a young woman whom the family knew, when she was shot three times inside the hotel by a terrorist.

Thakkar, who owns the clothing boutique Sari Palace in West Berkeley, was born and raised in Mumbai, a city he left for the United States when he was 26 years old but where he still maintains close ties.

Like thousands of Indian expatriates all over the United States, Thakkar and his family were shocked by the three-day rampage and its bloody aftermath, which threatened the safety of family, friends and ordinary citizens and took away innocent lives, including those of at least 18 foreigners.

“We learned about it right away,” he said Tuesday, sitting inside his store on University and San Pablo avenues Tuesday morning. “We watch Indian TV.”

More than 100 UC Berkeley students gathered on the steps of Sproul Plaza Wednesday evening for a candlelight vigil for the victims of the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

By SRITANU CHAKRABARTI

Mumbai, India — It’s been a long day at work and you just need to unwind by having a couple of beers with your friend from college, who is in town. He wants to go to Leopold’s, the popular pub at Colaba. You think about the beef chili out there for a moment, then refuse to yield to temptation.

It’s been a long day at work and you just need to unwind by having a couple of beers with your friend from college, who is in town. He wants to go to Leopold’s, the popular pub at Colaba. You think about the beef chili out there for a moment, then refuse to yield to temptation.

The roads are surprisingly empty at that time of day. It’s just 10 p.m., and usually Mumbai traffic is at its peak at this time. You don’t give it another thought.

You reach home in 30 minutes today instead of the usual one and a half hours it takes. A friend calls up from Bangalore to inform me that there has been a blast at a bus terminal.

You tell him how you would have been there at that time but decided not to go. Another call from Delhi comes just as you are about to reach home. There’s been a bomb blast at Ville Parle. A cab was blown up at a traffic junction.

Alarm bells start ringing in your mind. You were in that very spot just 15 minutes ago.

Phone calls start coming in from friends and relatives who mean the track will be sold, MECA (stock symbol MECA).

Golden Gate Fields for Sale as Magna Reorganizes

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Golden Gate Fields will be up for sale under terms of a corporate reorganization announced last week by corporate owner Magna Entertainment (stock symbol MECA).

While the restructuring doesn’t necessarily mean the track will be sold, MECA agreed to put all its assets on the table as the first stage of restructuring.

Golden Gate Fields executive Robert Hartman could not be reached for comment on the track’s future.

Bay Meadows in San Mateo, the region’s other major horse racing venue, closed in August, resulting in an expansion of the racing season at the Albany track, with the remaining dates assigned to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

Magna Entertainment lost $116.1 million between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, and had been forced to seek costly short-term financing to stay afloat. Earlier this month the company announced the hiring of a law firm specializing in bankruptcy and reorganization.

If all the proposed financial transactions are completed, MECA’s board is expected to approve a plan of reorganization by the end of the year.

Berkeley Shelters Open Despite Grim Economic Outlook

RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

Despite the bleak economic scenario, Berkeley’s winter homeless shelters have reopened for the winter, with a couple of them reporting a slight boost in funding and one witnessing record turnouts.

The city has typically offered at least four different kinds of shelter services to the homeless every winter, including the Winter Shelter program at the Oakland Army Base, the Winter Voucher program, the Emergency Storm Shelter program managed by Dorothy Day House and the Youth Emergency Assistance Hostel (YEASH) at the Lutheran Church of the Cross on University Avenue, which caters to young adults.

According to a 2003 survey of Alameda County’s homeless population, conducted by the Alameda County Continuum of Care Council, approximately 835 people are homeless on any given night in Berkeley, including 785 adults and 50 children.

A report submitted by Jane Micallef, acting director of the city’s housing department, states that the city has 150 beds located across four emergency shelters that operate throughout the year, although the demand for these beds—particularly during winter—continues to exceed the number of beds available.

Micallef said that the Winter Shelter and the Winter Voucher programs fill a critical gap in emergency housing, providing shelter to many of the “most fragile” of the homeless, especially when people struggle to find shelter from the cold winds or storms.

A collaborative effort among...
UC, City Downtown Settlement Heads to State Supreme Court

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The battle over the legal settlement that ended the city’s lawsuit against UC Berkeley’s plans for massive growth off-campus is headed for a higher venue.

After defeats in trial court and before the state Court of Appeal’s First District, plaintiffs in the suit against both town and university are headed for a higher venue.

The action, brought by Daily Planet Arts and Calendar editor Anne Wagley and neighborhood activists Carl Friberg, Jim Sharp and Dean Metzger, seeks to void the agreement signed in secret by the City Council and university officials that ended the city’s February 2005 lawsuit, which had challenged the university’s Long Range Development Plan 2020 (LRDP).

In exchange for dropping the action, the university agreed to pay the city $1.2 million throughout the life of the plan and to help fund a new downtown plan that would accommodate the university’s proposed 800,000 square feet of new construction in the city center.

Stephan Volker, who has represented the plaintiffs at each level of litigation, is handling the appeal as well, while San Francisco attorney Charles Olson, who represented the university in the legal battle over Memorial Stadium and the now-vanished grove, has represented the university in this case too.

Asked his opinion of the appeal, Berkeley’s acting City Attorney Zach Cowan said he’d heard a lot about it but didn’t receive notice of the suit, “I don’t think the merits have changed” since the state Court of Appeal rejected the plaintiffs’ request in an unpublished decision filed Oct. 21.

One of the issues in dispute is whether or not the city has the right to grant the university veto power over the new Downtown Area Plan, which Volker contends is a promise by the city to violate the California Environmental Quality Act.

The appellate court ruled that the settlement agreement did not give the university veto power because the city could prepare its own plan even if the university rejected the jointly prepared version. In his appeal of the appellate court ruling, Volker contends that the unanimous opinion drafted by Associate Justice Maria P. Rivera should be reversed “to protect the rights of citizens seeking to challenge present, illegal contractual commitments” before they can be implemented at a later date.

The city had initially filed the LRDP lawsuit challenging the actions of the UC Board of Regents in approving both the plan and the accompanying Environmental Impact Report.

The city’s second action that challenged the so-called Southeast Campus Integrated Projects, which included the LRDP and other buildings projects, moved among them a nearby underground parking garage and a large new building joining functions of the law and business schools.

The city dropped out of that case after a loss at the trial court level. That decision too is being appealed.

Meanwhile, the Berkeley Planning Commission is preparing its own version of the Downtown Area Plan. It is significantly rewriting the portion of the plan prepared by a citizen panel appointed by the City Council and augmented by three planning commissioners.

Both the original plan and the rewrite will go to the City Council, which will adopt a final version by May 25 or risk the loss of $15,000 a month in promised university funding for every month of delay.

Landmarks Commission Weighs In On Residence’s Historic Status

By RIYA BHATTACHARJEE

The Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission will review a nomination Thursday to place the Donald and Helen Olsen House in Berkeley on the National Register of Historic Places and will prepare a report on whether or not the property meets the standards of the list.

The application, submitted by UC Berkeley architecture students Kate Lydon, Jaclyn Dab, Tiffany Monk and Bruce Judd, principal at the San Francisco-based architecture firm Architecture Resources Group, will be taken up by the State Historical Resources Commission on Jan. 27, 2009.

Designed by Donald Olsen in 1954, the building is a single-family residence in the Modernist style, which epitomizes the international style made popular in Europe by architects Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier and adopted by the applicants, “displays the geometries, ethics, strict formalism and rigor synonymous with the Miesian ideals reminiscent of the international style of Modernism.”

Straddling a wedge-shaped lot at 771 San Diego Road, the house is bounded by a creek to the north and a sloped hill to the east. Its main floor is raised over the ground level and was originally built to provide the residents with breathtaking views of the San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge, now obscured by trees.

The applicants claim in the nomination that because of its style ethics, setting and materials, the Donald and Helen Olsen House should be considered one of the several architecturally significant Modernist houses in Berkeley to be “the only one of its kind” because of its Miesian ideals.

Arlene Blum Awarded 2008 Purpose Prize

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

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By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

Berkeley resident Arlene Blum, founder of the Green Science Policy Institute and leader of the first American expedition, comprised entirely of women, to climb Annapurna, will receive $100,000 for her work mobilizing scientists, government, industry and consumers to protect health by reducing toxins in our homes and the environment, as one of the 15 winners of the 2008 Purpose Prize, according to Civic Ventures, which awards the prize.

The Prize consists of six $100,000 awards and nine $10,000 awards.

The Green Science Policy Institute provides unbiased scientific research information to government, industry and non-governmental organizations to facilitate informed decision-making about chemicals, and works on a global scientifically sound chemical policy.

“Most people have the impression that all the chemicals in commerce today have been fully tested for their health and environmental safety without the use of toxic chemicals in foam. In addition, she is working on an international level to develop cooperative toxic chemical reform strategies and has presented lectures and attended meetings in Beijing, Tokyo, and Brussels as well as in the United States and Canada.

Summaries of all winners, as well as videos and photographs, are online at www.purposeprize.org.

Beautiful Palestinian Hand-Crafted Gifts On Sale!

Saturday, Dec. 13 10:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
St. John’s Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley
* Includes embroidery, glassware, textiles, ceramics, shawls, organic olive oil, jewelry –
* Mid-Eastern food and music too!
* Benefit for Palestinian craftspeople and Middle East Children’s Alliance: 510-548-0542, meca@mecaforpeace.org

THE THEATER
Reviews of local productions run weekly in the
THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET
San Pablo Condo Project Defaults, Forced Sale Scheduled

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

The latest chapter in one of Berkeley’s more hotly contested buildings will unfold on the courthouse steps in Oakland at high noon on Dec. 16.

That’s when the condo building at 2700 San Pablo Ave. will be sold at auction to pay for the $10.8 million incurred by its owner, Carleton Place, LLC, in May 2006.

Developer Charmaine Curtis told a writer for Apartment Finance Today magazine in April that the total cost of the project had been $14 million.

The five-story building, erected after five years of legal battles and without ever having hosted a single tenant other than the occasional presence of real estate brokers and would-be buyers, has become the latest casualty of the real estate meltdown.

The building was the city’s first major condo project in recent years, though its scale is dwarfed by the Berkeley Arpeggio, the nine-and-a-half-story building now rising on Center Street in downtown Berkeley.

The project went through three hands and a change of name between the initial plans on Dec. 9, 2004, this time with work spaces with lofts. ZAB approved her plans that boosted the height to five floors by converting most of the street-level units into live-work spaces with lofts. ZAB approved her initial plans on Dec. 9, 2004, this time with two opposing votes.

Curtis created a limited liability corporation—an LLC—for the property three months later, a technique increasingly favored by developers since it both limits losses to the project costs and provides an attractive way to sell a building without the buyer incurring a property tax reassessment.

The designs went through more changes, with one first-floor living unit transformed into a solely commercial condo, and a final design that opted for cheaper concrete construction rather than the steel and glass of the Kennedy/Choyce era, a cost-cutting move that neighbors said detracted from the project’s esthetic impact.

The last stage before construction was demolition of an old gas station building that once occupied the site.

When the building was finally completed early this year, Mayor Tom Bates and City Councilmember Darryl Moore were on hand, with Bates praising the building as one of the first projects that would “help transform San Pablo Avenue,” according to the account in the Oakland Tribune.

Berkeley City Manager Phil Kamlarz said Wednesday that he hadn’t been aware of the foreclosure auction. City economic development director Michael Caplan did not return calls.

The Curtis + Partners phone number is no longer listed to the company.

The auction will be conduct- ed Dec. 16, at the Fallon Street entrance to the Alameda County Courthouse at 1225 Fallon St. in downtown Oakland.

Plans for an earlier auction in September were canceled after the mortgage was transferred to a new owner, said Alan Scott Koenig, who had been the trustee for the earlier sale.
Future Berkeley Cell Phone Expansion Is Uncertain

By J. DOUGLAS ALLEN-TAYLOR

With the Berkeley City Council scheduled to look at two cell phone antenna facility applications over the next two weeks, the significance of the Berkeley Planning Commission’s failure to agree on changes to the city’s Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Ordinance may become clear.

The council’s Nov. 18 meeting that unlike some of the city’s other permit procedures, Berkeley’s telecommunications ordinance requires the council to consider an application based on the text of the ordinance “at the time of final approval,” not on the basis of the ordinance text which was in effect when the application was filed.

Berkeley is considering changes to its Wireless Telecommunications ordinance in line with recent court decisions affecting the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, an act which governs how much cell phone facilities beyond those powers governments over approval of wireless communications facilities. If the city’s Planning Commission had approved any ordinance amendments at its Nov. 19 meeting, the City Council would have had just enough time to pass those amendments in January to make them applicable to the Verizon and T-Mobile appeal cases when they were finally decided at the council level.

While the Planning Commission did not approve a staff proposal to make the application when the application was filed.

The “least intrusive” portion of the proposed new ordinance would have given the city power to reject a wireless antenna facility application if the carrier had a “less intrusive” alternative to provide the same cellular coverage in the area covered by the application.

But one proposed addition to the city’s telecommunication ordinance would have required a finding by the city that any proposed new wireless antenna facility be “necessary to prevent or fill a significant gap in coverage or capacity shortfall in the applicant’s service area, and is the least intrusive means of doing so.”

The least intrusive provision of the proposed new ordinance would have given the city power to reject a wireless antenna facility application if the carrier had a “less intrusive” alternative to provide the same cellular coverage in the area covered by the application.

While it would appear on the surface that this new regulation would give Berkeley greater leeway in rejecting particular locations for wireless antenna installations, Cowan told councilmembers at the Nov. 18 meeting that he saw no provisions in the proposed wireless ordinance changes that would have had any effect on the pending T-Mobile and Verizon applications.

Cowan was also of the opinion that a recent United States Court of Appeals ruling in a San Diego case does not significantly increase the powers of local governments over approval of wireless antenna facilities beyond those powers which the governments originally had in the federal Telecommunications Act.

In 2003, a federal judge prevented the San Diego County from enforcing its recently- enacted Wireless Telecommunications Ordinance, a decision that was later upheld by a three-judge appeals panel. Those decisions were based upon a court interpretation of the federal Telecommunications Act that local governments could not enact ordinances that “might possibly” have that effect.

Meanwhile, in its decision to pass consideration of the proposed telecommunications ordinance up to the City Council, members of the Planning Commission said only that they were doing so to meet a deadline imposed by a settlement agreement in a lawsuit between Verizon and the City of Berkeley.

Planning Commissioners said that they want the telecommunications ordinance issues to come back to them after the first of the year in order to consider more extensive changes in the law than were proposed by staff.

Arreguin Sworn in as Councilmember

Federico Chavez, administrative law judge, swears in Jesse Arreguin as the new councilmember for District 4 at Berkeley City Hall last Wednesday.

Arreguin, who took office on Nov. 27, became the city’s first Latino councilmember and the youngest elected official on the City Council.

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Housing for UC Students who are:
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Two bedroom apartments available NOW!

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New construction with convenient public transportation and campus community.

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Enroll in Berkeley City College’s English 14
Non-Fiction Writing Class, taught by Berkeley Daily Planet editor Michael Howerton.
Learn to write various types of stories and how to get your writing published.

CSU credit, 3 units
Tuesday class, 6:30-9:20 p.m.
Starts Jan. 20

(This course is mistakenly listed in the catalogue as a Wednesday class—it will meet on Tuesdays, in Evans Hall, room 9, on the UC campus.)
Enroll at www.berkeleycitycollege.edu or 981-2800.
Class #24581

Moving Pictures

Award-winning reviews of contemporary and classic cinema

By JUSTIN DEPREITAS

Page 4 THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET December 4-10, 2008
**Police Blotter**

**By ALI WINSTON**

**Looney’s burglary**

A burglar was spotted breaking into Looney’s Smokehouse on Bancroft Way on the evening of Nov. 27. Shortly before 3 p.m., a passerby spotted a man in a dark hooded sweatshirt, baggy black pants and sneakers climbing through one of the restaurant’s windows.

The witness flagged down a passing officer, who was conducting a traffic stop. By the time the officer reached Looney’s, the suspect had left with an unspecified amount of cash.

**Thanksgiving Day vandals**

Four cars had one or more tires deflated by vandals on Nov. 27. Four different residents in the area of Blake and Ellsworth streets noticed police of the incidents on Thanksgiving Day. In every case, the tire caps had been removed.

Police suspect the incident is a Thanksgiving prank by youths holed up for the holiday. “That sounds more like kids than anything else,” said Officer Andrew Frankel, a department spokesman.

**Purse stolen**

A woman’s purse was stolen from outside her Ruby Street house on the afternoon of Nov. 27. Around 3:30 p.m., a woman left her purse on top of an adjacent porch while unloading her car. She returned from the house a short while later and noticed her purse was missing.

Police advise residents to keep a close eye on their valuables and belongings to combat such “crimes of opportunity.”

“You would be surprised at how many crimes would be deterred if people locked their doors and secured their effects,” said Frankel.

**Glued locks**

Four Telegraph Avenue businesses reported their locks had been filled with glue on Nov. 28, mirroring a string of incidents on San Pablo Avenue last month.

Bows and Arrows, Upper Playgroup, Sharks, Sway, and Buffalo Exchange were the latest victims. On Nov. 8, Subway Sandwiches on University and San Pablo Avenue and Sea Salt Restaurant on San Pablo Avenue reported similar incidents of vandalism.

Surveillance footage from one of the businesses caught two suspects in the act. Police described the individuals as a young man in his 20s with long hair or dreadlocks, a gray hooded sweatshirt, and dark pants.

**Armed robbery**

An armed man held up the FedEx/Kinkos store on College Avenue on Friday afternoon, making away with an unspecified amount of cash. Around 12:20 p.m., a young man in a black hooded sweatshirt, baggy blue jeans, and white tennis shoes walked into the store, brandished a handgun and demanded the contents of the register. He fled down College Avenue after the money was handed over.

Two employees and a customer witnessed the incident.

**Race track fight**

A fight broke out between two workers at Golden Gate Fields on Nov. 14 involving two San Leandro women who work at the track turned physical around 7:20 p.m. Both women are pressing for battery charges.

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**Fire Dept. Log**

**By RICHARD BRENNEMAN**

Dies in crash

A retired Berkeley deputy fire chief died Sunday, the day after he was fatally injured when his golf cart was struck by a car at the Rosemoor retirement community near Walnut Creek.

Deputy Fire Chief Gil Dong said Roland Scrivener had served 29 years in the department, retiring in 1980 after spending his last six years as deputy chief.

“He was also a professional actor, and he appeared in commercials and the movie Taddei: The Man and His Dreams,” said Deputy Chief Dong.

In addition to the 1988 biopic, Scrivener was also featured in a 1989 segment of the television drama series “Night Caller,” according to the Internet Movie Database.

He is survived by his spouse of 56 years, Inez, who was golfing with him at the time of the accident.

Dramatic rescue

After a Monday car crash on Seventh Street around 7 p.m. left a 2-year-old boy pinned in the wreckage of the family car, Berkeley firefighters used the Jaws of Life to rescue the toddler.

A burglar was spotted breaking into one of the restaurant's windows. By the time the officer reached the scene, the suspect had fled the area.

A woman's purse was stolen from a vehicle parked on Shattuck Avenue. The suspect was described as a young man in a black hoodie, baggy pants and sneakers.

A fight broke out between two workers at Golden Gate Fields. One worker was injured, and the other was detained by police.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 4
Mario Savio Memorial Lecture. "Beds are made to be slept in.” by Robert Kennedy, Jr. at Berkeley Art Museum, 2120 Oxford St. Free. 9 p.m.

Heidayan Hayford Fundraiser with poets Gary Snyder and Al Young and others at 6:30 p.m. at the Berkeley Art Museum. $35. 10-11 p.m. 952-9817.

Walkers 50+: Explore Restoration Hardware Creek Meet at 9 a.m. at 21st & Central for a walk to 9th St. Berkeley. Call for meeting place and weather requirements. Cost is $5-$8. 544-2338.

Coo Ripe: Meet at 7 p.m. at 6225 50th Ave., Oakland. Cost is $5-$8. 847-9358.

FRIDAY, DEC. 5
"Artisticana" Artisan's bazaar and exhibit at 10 a.m. at The Red Door Gallery and Collective. 1461 15th St., Oakland. Free. 2-5 p.m.

Artists at risk Art Exhibition and Sale from 10 to 7 p.m. at the California Art Center, 400 14th St., Oakland. 455-5450.

World of Good Holiday Sale featuring international artistic community from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 6313 Doyle St., Oakland. 554-6352.

Bay Area Pottery
Class
Art work by Jonathon Keats, at 6:45 p.m. at the Berkeley Masters Club, 1580 Shattuck Ave. 841-2705.

Berkeley Women in Black weekly vigil from noon to 1 p.m. at the Children's Circus. Our focus is human rights in Palestine. 548-6310.

SUNDAY, DEC. 7
Berkeley Park Wanderers: Holiday Stroll from the Rose Garden up to Alta Street. 8:30 to 10 a.m. Continue at 21st and Berkeley. dolores@berkeleywalks.org

International Craft Bazaar from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Ashkenazi, 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. $2-$5. 707-8668.

Fungus "Fungi and Fire" with exhibits, talks, tastings and marketplace from noon to 4 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St. Free. 555-5555.

Fungus "Fungi and Fire" with exhibits, talks, tastings and marketplace from noon to 5 p.m. at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St. Free. 555-5555.

Berkeley Church Meets every Wed. and Sat. at 10:30 a.m. 2270 Acton St. 841-2174.

East Bay Track Club for girls and young women meets at 6 p.m. at Berkeley High School track. 525-5054.

Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 6 p.m. at West Paula Veterans Administration UC campus. To schedule an appointment go to www.bloodsource.org

World Affairs/Politics Discussion Group, for people 60 years or older meets the 1st and 3rd Wed. at 6:30 p.m. Berkeley Community Church, 1280 14th St., Berkeley. For details go to www.dragonx.org

TUESDAY, DEC. 8
"Birds for the Birds" Animal Flight Walks in local parks, lead by Jean Weidner. Starts at 9:30 a.m. To visit Lindoff Trail on the Richmond powerhouse. $8-$12. To reserve call 597-5027.

"Spirit of the Season" Free Garden Tours at 8:30 a.m. at 2600 9th St., Berkeley. Free. 707-823-7293.

Tibetan Holiday Card Show & Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MCKS. Donation $5-$10. 839-0852. pdcba@yahooglobal.net

Hiking, Birding, and Breakfast with Father Mckillop at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, 1858 Kittredge St. Oakland. Cost is $5-$8. 238-2200. www.macrocosmos.org

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"From Richmond to Regla" Hispanic cultural event. "La Ruta de los Candiles" at the Berkeley City Club, 2120 Oxford St. 952-9817.

"Our Environmental Destiny" Panel discussion on global warming, with displays and interactive trolley, live music, enter- tainment and gift cards. Sponsored by the Anti-Global-Warming Community Rhythms Scholarship Fund. Please bring a small pair of gloves or a plastic bag to clean up trash. To register call 431-9016.

"Discovering Dr. Seuss" Berkeley Rep Family Series at 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m at New East Berkeley Education Center at 2090 Kittredge St. 917-6017.

"Making Your Own Bike Bag" Class starting soon for little or no sewing experience. We will cover the basics of sewing on the home machine, along with creative design, techniques, an intro to bag design, as well as a brief look at the industrial design for noon to 4 p.m. at Wateridge Hospice. Cost is $20. Contact 540-4590.

Holiday Card Show & Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 998 Kittredge St. Berkeley. Donation $5-$10. 597-5027.

December 4-10, 2008 The Berkeley Daily Planet Page 6
Worked as a stable cleaner when I was 23 years old, medicated on Prolixin, and underweight. The work was heavier than the horse. The rancher sent me a $15 check that was dirt-bad terms with the ranch owner; I had to work fast enough.

It was the last straw when a car went rolling down the slope and slammed into another parked car. I was unpopular after that; even though the stop and start buttons for the converter weren’t clearly marked. (Who had the brilliance to put a car on a hill?)

I showed up for work the day after this incident, and realized I wasn’t welcome. I wasn’t paid for my work.

I worked briefly as a telemarketer for a job. My calls weren’t with the horse. Nobody ever called me or the horse inquiring about the horses. Or the work. I was only an option to be called inquiring about the horses, which I didn’t answer, and stopping up after a short while.

I was relieved several times by a temp agency, and at one point got an assignment to do cleaning in the kitchen, after degree heat, the foremost wouldn’t allow me to get some water. I walked off and then another job was assigned, do not the fountain, and then I returned. The foremost wasn’t happy about this. I didn’t last the full day before I called it quits. I quit, I received a letter from Cal OSHA that said they shut down the company after worksite inspections.

I worked through a temp agency doing restoration of soot-covered files that were in a box and a bag lunch. Cost is $35. Registration required.

I was on a short walk with a horse back and forth. It was fun even though both the horse and I knew that I knew nothing about horses. The spinning wheels wouldn’t spin to lean in— so I could physically compete!

It was worked at a car that was built on a steep slope and was staffed by hostile young men. This job lasted me a few days, and got me called the job because of the job’s date. I was treated hardly and couldn’t work fast enough.

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I was paid for my work. I walked off and then another job was assigned, do not the fountain, and then I returned. The foremost wasn’t happy about this. I didn’t last the full day before I called it quits. I quit, I received a letter from Cal OSHA that said they shut down the company after worksite inspections.

I worked through a temp agency doing restoration of soot-covered files that were in a box and a bag lunch. Cost is $35. Registration required.

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A little more than a month ago, four U.S. Blackhawk helicopters crossed the border into Syria, carrying 15-20 men, according to the Syrian state television. The U.S. claimed it was part of a larger operation against the Islamic State, and that the strike was aimed at preventing the group from establishing a foothold in the region. But in the wake of the attack, questions have emerged about the legality of the action. The U.S. has been accused of violating international law, as well as the laws of armed conflict. The Bush administration, however, has insisted that the strike was necessary to protect U.S. interests and prevent the growth of a terrorist network. As the controversy continues, it remains to be seen whether the U.S. will face any consequences for its actions.

The page features an article by Conn Hallinan titled "Syria Attack: Changing the Rules." The article discusses the legality of the U.S. strike on Syria and the potential consequences for international law and U.S. foreign policy. It also examines the broader implications of the strike for the future of international relations.

The article mentions that the U.S. strike on Syria was a response to a perceived threat from the Islamic State. However, the article notes that the strike was not sanctioned by the United Nations or the U.S. government, and that it may have violated international law.

The article also discusses the potential consequences of the strike for international relations. It notes that the strike could have long-term implications for the future of international law, as well as for the ability of the U.S. to act unilaterally in the future.

Overall, the article provides a detailed analysis of the U.S. strike on Syria, and the potential consequences for international law and U.S. foreign policy. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of international relations.

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The article is written in a clear and concise manner, with a focus on providing a detailed analysis of the U.S. strike on Syria. The author provides a thorough explanation of the legal and political implications of the strike, and the potential consequences for international law and U.S. foreign policy. The article is well-researched, with numerous references to relevant sources.

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The article is an excellent example of how to write a detailed analysis of a complex event. The author provides a thorough explanation of the legal and political implications of the strike, and the potential consequences for international law and U.S. foreign policy. The article is well-researched, with numerous references to relevant sources. Overall, it is a must-read for anyone interested in the future of international relations.
Oakland, in the Jerry Brown years, practiced an unofficial policy of what might be called “community cleansing.” This is not to be confused with “ethnic cleansing,” the horrific activity in parts of, say, Eastern Europe or Central Africa where whole ethnic populations are violently and bloodily removed, either through exile or actual genocide. Nor is Mr. Brown’s “community cleansing” policies far more genteel, involving little violence, than what I shall call “community cleansing.” (In Oakland, the whole Oakland Riders police scandal was about) and targeting not whole ethnic groups, but rather portions of the populations that were considered as being “undesirables.” Part of this involved harassment, part of it deliberate neglect of certain populations and entire neighborhoods. In their place, Mr. Brown sought—publicly, at least—to create an appearance of crime and violence and poverty. Mr. Brown put millions of dollars of city funds into shiny new “anti-crime” programs—empty ranting by a non-influential citizen, I enjoyed watching politicians repeatedly lie to constituents about their plans to reduce crime. Of course, the only reason why I can view the terrible actions of our local politicians with such a muted sense of anger is that my municipality does not allow me to petition to recall anyone. I can allow myself to be mostly indifferent, it does not affect me—aside from taxation, that is. And, as readers of this blog know, I view local government and policies as the reason that much of it is regressive, which drives out the poor and improves the community.

Such a doctrine is generally called “gentrification,” although in Mr. Brown’s case, it was given the name “Jerryfication.” I wrote about the Jerry Brown Community Relocation Doctrine in countless columns during the time Mr. Brown was mayor of Oakland—both for the Daily Planet and an earlier version for the now-defunct Oakland Urbanist—and I will point out examples, if you’re interested. Some might suppose I ought to collect them all in a book and publish them in one tidy volume. The procedure was to stop as many as good as lost, with impound fees who can’t produce them. Those cars are ed residents and their advocates say officer, and confiscating the cars of those licenses, and confiscating the cars of those along International Boulevard in recent administra tion, it’s something that the mayor hoods. But policies like the OPD “crime- the quota of bodies needed for these traf fic sweeps. The same goes for regressive parcel taxes which hit hardest those who can least afford them. This is exactly what Oakland is trying to do. The same goes for the car tax measure above and beyond Measure Y to add more Oakland police above Measure Y’s. EBC writes, “By diverting tax money from liberal social programs to the city . . . and making the poor pay the price.” The city is sending out a clear message to the poor: Get out or pay the price. That means keeping prices cheaper than in San Francisco, and to San Francisco residents, putting an equal value on all of the people who live here, and wanting to spread city services equally from citizen to citizen, and neighborhood to neighbor hood. But policies like the OPD “crime- the poor’s job to translate that election win into pre vention by massive traffic stops. The pre sident of the city council, and neighborhood to neighbor hood. But policies like the OPD “crime- citizen, and neighborhood to neighbor hood. But policies like the OPD “crime- the poor’s job to translate that election win into pre vention by massive traffic stops. The pre sident of the city council, and neighborhood to neighbor hood. But policies like the OPD “crime-
The Best-Laid Plans...

S
ome have accused this space of phoniness; the city planner
and they’d be right. It’s small but
urbanized burb like Berkeley, if you’re interested in a government, it’s
hard to be. Realistically, the only
significant power left to cities in Cali-
ifornia is control of land and police,
said one planner; the city’s
debt-ridden. Does that affect her vote?
There’s no way to know for sure, but it
certainly is the case.
The question seems particularly
interesting in light of city planner
Charlotte (Charlotte)’s recent inadvertent
disclosure to the Planning Commission.
She told commissioners that the city
has already signed what she called a
“secret” agreement promising early
review of cell tower regulations with
Verizon, Kennedy’s customer on
South Shattuck. If Commissioner Patti
Dacey hadn’t pursued inquiries about
what staff was pressing the commission
to act quickly on the new regs, the
agreement might still be a secret.
At a later City Council meeting, it
became clear that it’s been so secret
that even Councilmember Kriss Wor-
thington, who does every city and crosses
every t, didn’t know about it. How
about Maio? What did she know, and
when did she know it?
And then there’s the career path of
the city’s former Director of Current
Planning and Mark Rhoades, who joined
developer Ali Kashani’s firm more
than a year ago, though this perk might
be the equivalent of scoring a stateroom
on the Titanic. Kashani

demonstrated his political acuity in the
recent election by soliciting developer
cash for losing council candidate Terry
Doran in a widely circulated e-mail,
giving development-obsessed District 4
voters a clear view of whether they
didn’t want to vote for
The last time we noted the Rhoades-
Kashani alliance, we got a long defen-
sive op-ed from the smart and articu-
late director of the city of Berkeley’s
Planning Department. He said that
planners were just doing their job, not
trying to influence policy, and the city’s
commissioners and councilmembers
had the last word. He pointed out that
planners were just supposed to inter-
pret and follow the city’s adopted
plans. Well, sure, but plans—and planes—
change.
When we discussed this topic previ-
ously, planners seemed to take partic-
ular umbrage at my reprise of Com-
missioner Dacey’s favorite quote from
the first lecture in her Administrative
Law class in law school: Every regula-
tory body is eventually captured by the
industry it’s supposed to regulate. So
this time I’ll paraphrase my own Local
Government Law professor instead:
No one has to worry about general
plans, since no one ever follows them
anyway.
A San Franciscan of my acquain-
tance described the endless meetings
she’s attended regarding her city’s
plans for South of Market and the East
Side. She says there’s always a choreo-
graphed parade of standard represen-
tatives of interest groups, everything
from a singing chorus of Filipino
schoolchildren to Irish builders. The
usual suspects address the audience,
It’s all recorded and written down, and
nothing changes—the city goes ahead
with business as usual, regardless of
what happened at the citizen gather-
ings.
Here in Berkeley it’s not so colorful,
but the outcome is the same. Numer-
ous public and public-spirited citizens
have devoted countless hours to meet-
ings on Berkeley’s General, West
Berkeley, Downtown and Southside
plans, and as soon as they were adopt-
ed the Planning Department and a few
of their groups set to work trying to
get them changed.
Thus we’ve seen the “flexibility”
sought for West Berkeley, delay sub-
ject to the artists whom the existing
West Berkeley Plan is supposed to
protect, and the city’s agreement with
UC to change the Downtown Plan to
allow for UC expansion. The Town-
town Area Plan Advisory Committee,
a group of energetic and intelligent
artists, was given the task of drafting the
repeal, but the ink was
hardly dry on their Op’s before the
real parties at interest got to work try-
ing to erase it. The Planning Commis-
sion has been packed with retired UC
planners, developers’ lawyers and sim-
ilarly impartial appointees, and they’re
currently working on their own draft, which
looks to be a complete reversal of
every intention manifest in DAPAC’s
draft.
All of this inside baseball is headed
for the playoffs this month. If you care
about this kind of arcane stuff, it’s
time to keep your eye on the ball. Tradi-
tionally citizens pay less attention
during pre-holiday periods, both win-
ter and summer, which makes them
an easy target for politicians to
try to slide a few fast ones across the
plate. Deadlines for all of these contro-
versies are on the horizon at the Plan-
ing Commission and the City Coun-
cil, and new councilmembers might
mean some shifting alliances.

—Becky O’Malley
A More Personalized Education is Good for All Students

By CAROL LASHOF

n Dec. 9 the Shared Governance Council at Berkeley High will consider a proposal for restructuring the high school. The redesign plan includes an alternating block schedule with four 80- or 90-minute class periods a day, a 30-minute advising period twice a week, and a daily "Academic Support and Community Access Period" for most students. The goal of the plan is to increase personalization. If it is approved by Shared Governance, the proposal will move to the School Board for consideration.

As noted in the Daily Planet of Nov. 26, reactions to the proposal have been mixed. Most parents and teachers acknowledge the value of advisories and of additional academic support time for at-risk students, but many also worry that the proposed restructuring will take opportunities away from successful students. As a parent of two high-achieving daughters (BHS '05 and BHS '09), I believe, on the contrary, that the redesign would be a great boon for our students, including the highest achievers.

Admittedly, the schedule change, in order to increase teacher-preparation and professional development time, significantly reduces the time students spend learning the curriculum. If the district could afford to hire additional teachers or compensate teachers monetarily for working a longer day, then perhaps this reduction could be avoided. Unfortunately, we can’t afford it. And we can’t ask them to take on new responsibilities and adapt to a new schedule without giving them the resources to do the job right.

Fortunately, reducing the time teachers spend delivering curriculum to a classroom full of students does not necessarily reduce the time students spend learning the curriculum. An alternating block schedule would allow students to spend more time on each subject on a given day and to experience fewer transitions, thus giving them the opportunity to absorb what they have learned. A flexible support/access period — in which students could study or tutor, take an extra class, participate in science labs or orchestra rehearsals, or pursue internships and community service — would make it easier for students to manage demanding course-loads and extracurricular activities.

For example, students in AP courses are typically required to attend two to three labs per week in either zero or 7th period classes. A typical BHS student now spends 1,650 minutes in the classroom every week, exclusive of zero and 7th period classes. A typical college student spends significantly less time in class that time students actually invest on campus. With their friends, this well-intentioned requirement becomes a pointless exercise.

Many parents and students have raised another concern: wouldn’t this lower the quality of instruction? I believe that wouldn’t be the case. Teachers typically prepare for a class on a given day in advance. They know that they will spend 750 minutes with a particular class. They will probably flex their political muscles in and out of class. They will probably take the administration’s word that students will be better served by spending less time with them.

Frequently, students in AP classes attend afternoon labs because of sports or community service. This requirement would benefit. (AP students who are in sports teams or community service—and community service — would make it easier for students to manage demanding course-loads and extracurricular activities.

At the same time, students could work in lower-level classes under a teacher's supervision and provide meaningful assistance. Both high-achievers and struggling students would benefit.

Perhaps most important, the opportunity to structure some part of their school day to meet their own needs would better prepare students to take responsibility for their education as they will have to do in college. A typical BHS student now spends 1,650 minutes in the classroom every week, exclusive of zero and 7th period classes. A typical college student spends significantly less time in class that time that they will spend delivering curriculum to a classroom full of students does not necessarily reduce the time students spend learning the curriculum.

By RICK AYERS

I was dismayed but not surprised to see the large group of privileged parents descend on the community meeting at St. Joseph the Worker’s Church to consider the Berkeley High school redesign proposal. It’s a familiar pattern: the school community spends years reflecting and considering ways to make BHS more successful for all students and, when it comes close to a vote, the predictable crowd pours out in a vocal campaign of opposition.

In the case of the current Berkeley High campaign, the key goal was to lash out on and to and to the students who were spreading the most outlandish conspiracy theories—like that this is a secret plan to get rid of honors and advanced placement classes (these charges against a principal who has just about doubled the number of AP classes) or that students are being released to run wild in the streets. That teachers will not be able to “cover” enough curriculum.

They will probably flex their political muscle and yet again stop any significant progress in Berkeley. That’s tragic. Berkeley could be a beacon of progress, engendered holistic education that is a model for the nation as we go into a new and hopeful era. We could begin innovations which really address the achievement gap, which recognize our obligation to be successful with all kids—to finally begin to fulfill the promise of the Brown decision of over 50 years ago. And, I might add, creating such an equitable and engaged education would be excellent for those students who have traditionally done well in grades and college admissions.

They could, finally, actually experience diversity in the classroom and not just while crossing Milvia. They could experience deep connections to the community. Berkeley is a unique school which students—to finally begin to fulfill the promise of the Brown decision of over 50 years ago. And, I might add, creating such an equitable and engaged education would be excellent for those students who have traditionally done well in grades and college admissions.

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A quietly-revolutionary document that changed our world for the better, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

It first saw the light of day in 1948, on the 10th of December, thanks to the United Nations, the brainchild of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, dynamic head of the UN team.

Governments that voluntarily came together to form this self-organizing organization, the United Nations, agreed to a basic operating principle: human rights. The UDHR is an instrument that each individual is automatically entitled to all human rights, by virtue of being alive. Nothing more than that.

The result is a document that speaks to color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national origin, economic or other statuses that would no longer be an obstacle along her or his way to enjoying rights.

The Universal Declaration broke new ground. Governments for the first time agreed that people from every segment of this planet would thereby be entitled to rights regardless of where they are and be entitled to claim them. The notions in the Universal Declaration sound simple enough in the 21st century, but they have profoundly changed the human condition everywhere.

There isn’t often a “twist cup and lip. The “cup” grudgingly doing the pouring is a government that wants to hold tight to power. The “lip” is the individual who is allowed to drink, and the “twist” is the law, while the “lip” waiting to receive are populations eager for their rights. To fill the gap two ways. “We can only obey the rules when the norms and laws that followed in the wake of the Universal Declaration.

Perfect? Hardly.

Improving? Certainly!

“The five fields of human rights laid out in the UDHR have developed since 1948. They have been built and a document like the UDHR not only expresses support on the legal framework for human rights, but also a document that inspired the setting of the right to participate in public life, to form associations, to express opinions, and to have access to information.”

M

any believe that Obama would be the “savior” who will rescue us from the political direction begun by the Bush regime. The media and political staff do not indicate positive change. Obama chose Rahm Emanuel as his chief of staff.

Emanuel previously served in the White House from 1993 to 1998. He was Bill Clinton’s assistant for political affairs and then senior advisor for policy and strategy. He was instrumental in the passage of major pieces of legislation during the Clinton years. On behalf of Clinton he pushed through the North American Free Trade Agreement. He also helped pass “welfare reform” which left many of the already frazzled safety net for millions of children and families. Can we expect similar feats during the Obama administration?

Emanuel’s father was a member of Irgun, an Israeli terrorist group that operated in Palestine from 1920 to 1948. In 1948 Irgun massacred over one hundred Palestinian villagers in a despicable act of genocidal terror. Irgun was an offshoot of the much moreชeeched with the “sins of their father.” But Emanuel has continued his father’s ardent support of Israel.

In June 2003, despite President Bush’s almost unconditional support of Israel, Emanuel supported the formation of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and did his best to criticize Bush for being too weak in that support.

The letter supported Israel’s policy of assassinations and prompted several major newspapers to state that the assassination policy “was clearly justified as an application of Israel’s right to self-defense.”

In July 2006 after Israel invaded Lebanon, Emanuel again defended Israeli aggression. He demanded that Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki not be allowed to deliv-

Rahm Emanuel: Agent of Change?

**By KENNETH THEISEN**

In the lead-up to the 2006 Congressional elections, Emanuel was the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). He selected pro-war Democrat candidates and supported them in Democratic primary elections. Of the 22 candidates he selected, only one advocated immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces in Iraq. (That candidate was from a very liber-

ally Republican seat.) His Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) also ran a $25,000 in campaign contributions from Freddie Mac.

But we can be assured that Emanuel can deal with the financial industry just like the fox can guard the hen house. In the two- and-a-half years before he ran for Con-

gress, Emanuel worked as an investment chief of staff of the White House operations. But the new chief of staff’s background hardly indicates that he will lead a charge for progressive economic policies. The new chief of staff’s background indicates continuing war and continuing financial ruin for the masses of people.

Kenneth J. Theisen is an Oakland resident and steering committee member of the World Can’t Wait! Drive out the Bush regime!
Popular Speech Needs No Protection

By DOUGLAS MINKLER

The Arts Commission's response to the artist's complaint of censorship thus far has been woeful. It has no idea what the issues are. It has no concept of the meanings of privacy, civil rights, or First Amendment rights. It allows art that is racist, pornographic, violent, or otherwise offensive to be displayed in the gallery.

Against Censorship at Windows Gallery

By SHANKAR RAMAMOURTHY

Civil Artists Commission (CAC) member and Independent Responsive Art commentator in the Daily Planet supporting the restrictions on free speech and art shows by the Addison Street Windows Gallery. Commissioner Johnson argues that the city must not regulate the gallery, nor does she feel that the curator of the gallery can be held responsible.

Windows Gallery Wrongly Displaced

By PETER LABRIOLA

Considering the reams of bad publicity I've read regarding the Addison Street Window Gallery, I wonder why I've not heard of any protests by artists, other than the ones that were immediately dismissed.

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Thoughts on the Lincoln Battalion

By LAWRENCE JARACH

I would like to comment on Dan San-
tina’s first person essay in the Nov. 20 issue of the Berkeley Daily Plan-
et, concerning the Abraham Lincoln “Brigade.” Since I was a member of the Lin-
coln’s, and Richard Ferrack’s book on the VALB, can be read in the Daily Planet archives for May 6, 2005.

According to Santina, the IBs were staunchly anti-Hitler, many trying to join the U.S. military. Santina doesn’t mention that the late Milt Woff, the last Lincoln commissar, worked for the OSS (forerunner of the CIA). No mention is made of the VALB support for the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 by Soviet tanks. In short, no mention is made of the unwa-

A More Personalized Education

Continued from Page Eleven

The Daily Planet accepts com-

Val Peters is a Garden and Nutrition In-
structor in the Oakland School District, as well as an alternative lifestyle educator for Bay Area living. She was one of a team of advisors (BYRN) who advised the Berkeley City Council of ways to survive the anticipated Y2K disaster. Her specialty is in the development of a holistic, whole-earth through con-
tainment gardening practices.

impressive or a cut above the rest is some-
ting you should be doing—have to be doing—because how else are you going to get into Harvard?” In the same issue, Luke Davis reports that many stu-
dents see cheating as necessary or worthwhile. He quotes an anonymous sophomore as saying, “with all the pres-
sure that is put on students today to suc-
ceed, who isn’t going to cheat?” In short, many of our students have come to believe that success means good grades in AP classes, whatever the personal cost and regardless of whether the grade reflects genuine engagement with and mastery of the subject. We owe it to them to challenge this self-destructive belief. Advisories could provide a means to do so.

So, let’s need to restructure Berke-
ley High to boost achievement among low-income and minority students. But does it mean that the local school so-

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Continued from Page Ten

I have a special place in my heart for the St. Anthony Foundation. I also have respect for the great work of Glide Memorial Church. It’s reassuring to know that in their work, with the economy affecting so many, we Americans are a nation of generous and compassionate people, reaching out to those less fortunate, says Dorothy Snodgrass.

**“ART OF DEMOCRACY”**

Editors, Daily Planet:

The “Art of Democracy” show was not seen in the Addison Street Windows Gallery because of conflicting scheduling, as admirably represented in the pages of the Daily Planet, has been a healthy thing. Democracy, protests by members of the Arts Commission, the commission seems to have accepted that the First Amendment applies to the level worthy of opposition.

This particular case involved the representation of guns, and those in favor of censoring what we were a special case that could be censored. The argument was not about depictions of violence, or inciting violence, but the representation of violence of guns. In this case the images that were censored were portraying opposition to support the gun law. As it turned out, when that rules ostensibly made to “protect” us are used to prohibit speech that is critical of the government, that has indeed become a serious issue that rises to the level worthy of opposition.

The Arts Commission has acknowledged this in principle and I hope that the discussion continues as to the value of censorship in speech. Restrictions placed on speech by those who claim to protect us from immorality or from indecency are not justified, and I hope that it is a special case that cannot be protected by the First Amendment.

**POINT MOLATE**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Thank you for your recent article outlining the pros and cons of developing the waterfront at Point Molate near Richmond, and I’m still scratching my head at all the purported attributes a casino brings to an area. A casino near San Pablo rises dense in relation to other parts of our community. We’re grateful to live somewhat far from all the action.

Mr. Levine’s thinking out of the box and contributing a whole list of do-gooding is noted. A place called Richmond. A lot of green eggs in that basket. But, I stop short of his premise that “undesirable” casino types will not set foot in our area. I hate to rain on the parade, but Richmond is not a “destination location” and never will be. That particular property is overlooking heavy industry, and it smells like industry when you’re downwind from it. If it was located across the street in the shipyard, it would be a feasible plan for a destination casino. But it’s not San Francisco. It’s the shipyards of Richmond, and as much as I love our city, let’s not get carried away. Just visit the neighborhood, it’s not as crowded, each reency in the East Bay. They’re big “non-destinations” (but serve an important purpose, nonetheless). The Richmond Experience is not in the same league as places such as San Francisco.

**ZIONISM**

Editors, Daily Planet:

On Saturday, Nov. 22, an event took place in Colorado that says something about present-day America. A farm couple decided to do something for their starving neighbors. They opened their farm fields after the harvest to allow people to glean the crops. There are people picking up farm crops after the regular harvest. Typically some of the crops are left in the fields after the harvest, which is a way for farmers to glean eliminating waste, while feeding people at the same time. I grew up in Iowa and some of my relatives that lived on farms would do this each year. Usually a hundred people or less would show up at the gleaning on my relatives’ farms.

But at this gleaning, 40,000 people appeared at the 600 acre farm 37 miles out of Denver and the people had the pick up leftover crops. The United States is the richest nation in the world and yet in one area showed up to get the free food. What does this say about the economy? Granted not everyone probably needed the food because they were too poor to afford it. But I am sure thousands of them did.

It was estimated that the 40,000 people arrived in about 11,000 vehicles. Because of this, many people who came were not able to park legally. The Colorado State Patrol then issued citations to the illegally parked vehicles. Thankfully, the neighbors helped neighbors and then the state gave out citations. This also says a lot about the government’s role in the present financial crisis. Hundreds of billions are provided to the wealthy and corporations and the poor are given tickets when they try to pick their own food. What irony!

Kenneth J. Thiessen
Oakland

**WHAT IRONY!**

Editors, Daily Planet:

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**STANDARD-ISSUE LAB COAT**

Our thanks to all those who cast a vote for Daily Planet cartoonist Justin DeFreitas in the Union of Concerned Scientists’ Science Idol competi- tion. But alas, they gave top prize to a different Justin, some New York author of one of those East Coast media elite types we’ve never been warned about. Anyway, if it’s any consolation, DeFreitas was the only cartoonist to place two cartoons among the final 12 in this year’s calendar, which can be purchased through the Union of Concerned Scientists site: www.ucusa.org.

**THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET**

The 2009 Science Idol Calendar

Editors, Daily Planet:

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John Gertz

**FOR WHAT?**

Editors, Daily Planet:

Dunash Labrat has called me a racist, probably the nastiest epithet that can be thrown at a Jewish person. And for what? Because I pointed out that in a group photo of a brand new group touring itself as comprised of Jewish anti-Zionists not all its members appeared to be Jews. Labrat admits that this is in fact the case, but that non-Jews have a right to attend their meet- ings. No problem, let this group have non-Jews for members. But the Labrat cannot say that this is a group comprised of only Jews. Where’s the racism? That’s not a matter of truth in advertising. I have experienced the let down of going to the gro- scery store and seeing jugs of juice marked as 100 percent pure, until you read the print on the back telling you that it is not. At what point can an anti-Zionist group claim to be Jewish? When it is comprised of 20 percent anti-Zionists, or 100 per- cent. I suppose there are no laws broken here, but, still, consumers have a right to know.

After calling me a racist, Labrat goes on to point out various mistreatments of Arab Jews some 60 years ago when they first immigrated to Israel. Labrat is right. When, in the aftermath of Israel’s War of Independence, the Arab nations forcibly expelled their Jewish popu- lations and took all of their possessions, Israel population doubled almost overnight. The European founders of Israel were culture shocked and really did not know what to do with these sudden and unexpected arrivals. Not all of their responses were culturally sensitive by today’s standards. But Arab Jews are fully integrated into Israel now, and have no more of an urge to go back to their coun- tries of origin than any American Jews wish to return to the Russia or Poland of their ancestors just because 60 years ago they were subjected to quotas in hiring as well as in schools, and could not even join most country clubs right here in this Amer- ica.

John Gertz

**MUMBAI**

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Romila Khanna
Albany
Buying the right gift for your child always poses a challenge. This gift list makes it easier by assigning added value to products from companies that are thinking green and being socially responsible.

Over the past years I wanted to recognize those companies striving to make better, safer, and more natural toys; companies making products that help children learn about the environment or providing leadership in making environmentally safer manufacturing processes.

We launched “The Dr. Toy Green Toy” award last year giving the first to Blue Orange Toys and this year to the Green Toy Company, both located in San Francisco. These are two of the companies, among others, included in this gift guide who have launched a campaign to better the environment by making a promise to its customers and a commitment to society to both make products that are safe and high quality and creatively use recycled, kid-safe materials. In the case of the Green Toy Company, it has adopted business practices that keep manufacturing local to California, which saves in carbon emissions and creates local jobs.

Expand the awareness of GREEN by starting your own garden, recycling, borrowing books from the public library, and showing your children how to sew, fix things, be creative, use their imagination, not waste food or water, walk whenever possible, share toys, and, most of all, learn more about why we must each change and become more earth friendly.

Hope you can locate the right toy from among these for the children on your holiday gift list.

Interesting and innovative concept to help your child learn about germs by making them—in soap form. Easy steps are outlined in a fact-filled instruction booklet. This series is produced in cooperation with the American Museum of Natural History and focuses on authentic, educational experiences, while appealing to a child’s sense of fun, exploration, and wonder. It is a great way for children to learn science with hands-on experiences.

An excellent portable double-sided erasable board to take on a trip or use at home. Turn a wheel, select an A to Z picture, and trace the letter. Good way to introduce your child to writing letters. Safe, washable, water-based blue ink marker included. Wipes clean with a damp cloth. Easy introduction to write the ABCs. Printed on recycled paperboard with soy ink and water-based varnish.

3. Blue Orange Games Pengolo—The Fun South Pole Eggpedition! $29.99, 4-5 yrs., 415-252-0372, www.blueorangegames.com, info@blueorangegames.com
The Great Egg Finding Memory Game! Our penguins are ready to play with your child and the whole family. Roll two colored dice and lift two wooden penguins to find the matching hidden eggs. Be the first to collect six penguins with their eggs on your iceberg to win. Memory and a little luck will help you succeed in this clever game.

Continued on Page Seventeen
**Green Toys**
Continued from Page Sixteen

South Pole Eggspedition. Skills developed in this game include: color recognition, visualization, memory, and social skills. Expand memory and visual perception by remembering egg position. Placing penguins in numerical order also strengthens number association. Good to follow up playing the game by reading about penguins and seeing a film. This company replants two trees for everyone that is used for its production.

4. Blue Orange Games—Double Shutter Junior, Shut the Super Box $21.99, 6-10 yrs., 415-252-0372, www.blueorange.com info@blueorange.com

 arithmetic is more fun with Double Shutter Junior. Roll the dice and add up the dots to shut tiles of your choice. The tile total must match the dot total in any combination you want. Only flip a tile from the second row if the tile in front of it has already been shut. The player who shuts the Super Box or has the least amount of points remaining wins the game! Skills developed in this game: include number recognition, arithmetic strategy, and probability.


Medieval Garden is a new garden and growing kit. Castles and dragons have attraction for children, so it’s a wonderful growing kit. It is also under threat. Take a closer look at the challenges facing planet Earth today and discover what we can each do to make a difference. This colorfully illustrated book features a hardcover book with flaps. The book is produced from well-managed forests, controlled sources, and recycled wood or fiber.


Go green! This new free wheeling truck teaches environmental responsibility and behavior. This life-like vehicle recognizes whether recycled material is placed in the proper bin, provides positive messages that reinforce the need to recycle, and includes real recycling action sounds! Featuring hands-on play with a waste sorting lever, waste bin, and truck driver figurine, this truck is sure to offer hours of fun and encourage imaginative play. Great new concept and one that families who are striving to teach children about social responsibility will find a great addition.


Young chefs will enjoy playing with their make-believe culinary treats that have real benefits for the earth as young chefs concern them with the environmentally friendly Cookware and Dining Set from Green Toys®. Made of recycled plastic, this 27-piece set comes complete with a stock pot and lid, a skillet, four plates, four bowls, four cups, and four place settings (fork, spoon, and knife). The Green Toys Cookware and Dining Set is made locally from recycled plastic milk containers that save energy, reduce landfill waste, and lower greenhouse gas emissions, all in the name of Good Green Fun®. This product and company won the the Dr. Toy’s Green Award for 2008. What a sensible concept: recycling play products made in California.


This is a playset and puzzle in one! Kids will engage in hours of imaginative play with enchanting creatures of the rainforest, then challenge the analytical side of their brain to piece the puzzle together. Made from rubberwood, an earth friendly hardwood, this versatile 18-piece plaything is sure to delight while sparking the curiosity about these wondrous animals.

10. KAPLA—Kapla 200 Piece Wooden Building Set $69.99, 3-12 yrs., www.kaplatoyos.com, info@kaplatoyos.com

Enjoy the newest version of Kapla 200 natural toned wooden planks made of marine pine from France. This is a popular building set and enables variety and hours of construction and learning fun. Create castles and creatures and landscapes and cityscapes using imagination and gravity. There is not a single snap or screw or interlocking part. Kapla is lightweight and suitable for young builders and older experts. It is a unique open-ended building toy introducing kids and parents to Kapla stacking, building, designing, engineering, and construction. Includes an illustrated instruction manual with basic building techniques and packaged in an attractive box for easy storage. Perfect for the entire family to play with.


In the land of green, little is the new big! Meet the Idlbs; characters who want to find little partners who discover the big part they can play in keeping our earth happy, healthy and green—one iddy buddy at a time. Children are invited to join the lovely Idlbs to learn the steps they can take to keep our Earth happy, healthy and green. The Idlbs Waverly Eco-friendly Starter Kit contains the plush Waverly toy handcrafted using 100 percent organic Egyptian cotton, which has been colored with natural organic dyes! Also included in the kit is an organic cotton cinch sack for the child to wear, “iddy buddy steps for a greener world” stickerbook, the Idlbs Field Guide—both printed on recycled paper with eco-friendly inks—and an online reward program. Waverly the water drop Idlb, is a little dreamy, very sweet, and

**A Partial Guide to Local Toy Stores**

The Ark Toy Store
1812 Fourth St., Berkeley
thearttoy.com, 849-1930

Toy Go Round
1361 Solano Ave., Albany
etoysground.com, 527-1363

Sweet Dreams: Candy and Toy Store
2961 and 2963 College Ave.
www.sweetdreamsca.com, 549-1211 and 548-8697

Games of Berkeley
2511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley
gamesofberkeley.com, 540-7822

Five Little Monkeys
www.fivlittlemonkeys.com, 528-4411

Mr. Mopp’s Children’s Books & Toys
1405 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley
www.shopinberkeley.com, 525-9633

Boss Robot Hobby
2953 College Ave., Berkeley
bossrobot.com, 841-1680

Grove Street Kids
1644 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley
www.grovestreetkids.com, 843-5437

A Child’s Place
1896 Solano Ave., Berkeley
524-3651

Rockridge Kids
5511 College Ave., Oakland
www.rockridgekids.com, 601-5437

Lawrence Hall of Science—Discovery Corner Museum Store
642-1929

Mail/Phone Orders:
42-1016, fstore@berkeley.edu
**By KEN BULLOCK Special to the Planet**

"Bring your good Sunday clothes, your tambourine, your church fan—and your sense of humor!"

Thandwe Thomas De Shazor, who was outstanding in his portrayal of the young James Baldwin in Oakland Public Theater’s production of Richard Talavera’s "Before the Dream" and the Richard Wright Project readings that preceded it, has written "Children of the Last Days," "a comedy show that aims to satirize black church culture and the contradictions therein," which he’ll perform solo, with video projections and original music this Thursday through Saturday at the Oakland Noodle Factory Performing Arts Center, co-presented by Oakland Public Theater with the Nursha Theater.

**CHILDREN OF THE LAST DAYS**

8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 to Friday, Dec. 6; 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 at the Noodle Factory, 1255 26th St. (at Union), West Oakland. Sliding scale. www.eventbrite.com.

Continued on Page Twenty-Nine

**THE NEW MUSIC SEANCE**

1, 4 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at Swedenborgian Church, 2107 Lyon St. in San Francisco. Sliding scale: $25-65; $40-110; $60-170 (including buffet dinner with artists) complimentary tickets and tickets for all ticket holders. (800) 838-3006 or brownpapertickets.com. For more information, see otherminds.org.

Continued on Page Twenty-Nine

**OTHER MINDS PERFORMS ‘NEW MUSIC SEANCE’**

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 at Ashkenaz, 2025 Allston St. (at Ashby), Berkeley. $15-$35 sliding scale. www.ashkenaz.org.
Tis the Season ... with an abundance of shows to keep you jolly, both traditional—Christmas Carolers, Nutcrackers—and what might be called “Tropical campus. Proceeds go to Lounge, MLK Jr. Student Union, turning live music and local versalist Church, One Lawson Rd., Kensington. Suggested perfroms Bach's Partita No. 2 in D minor at 4 p.m. at St. John’s Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. Tickets are $15-$20.

“Celebrity Diversity” New paintings by Rita Sklar, at Bucci’s, 4477 Oak Ave., through Jan. 31. 430-7404.

THEATER
Women’s Will “Holiday Carolers” on Thursday and Sun. at 4 p.m. at the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave. Tickets are $10-$15. 420-0813.

FILM
“Urania’s Raid” with introduc- tion by Adell Aldrich at 8 p.m. at the Pacific Film Archive. Cost is $3.50-$50. 642-0808. www.pfa.org

“Time We Say Goodbye” at 7 p.m. at The Starry Plough, 2298 McCarney Rd., Alameda. Cost is $10. 522-9355.

READINGS AND LEACTURES
Best of Actors Reading Writers short story readings by local actors, Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. at Berkeley City Club, 2135 Durant Ave. Donation $8-$10.

MUSIC AND DANCE
Berkeley Ballet Theater “The Nutcracker” at 7 p.m., Sat. at 2 p.m. and Sun. at 5 p.m. at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2460 Colof Ave. Tickets are $17-$22. 548-1689. berkeleylater.org

Sacred & Profane “All-Brit- ten Holiday Concert” at 8 p.m. at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Cost is $15-$20. www.sacredandprofane.org

“The Irrationalists” at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Cost is $15. 488-JAZZ. www.caltransmusic.org

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Steve Lucky & The Rumba Bums at 9:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz, 2120 Allston Way. Cost is $15. zellerbach.com

St. John’s Church, 2300 Bancroft Way. Tickets are $15-$20.

“My Life, The Woman—I Choose” An opera by Jake Heggie at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $15-$20.

“Coppelia” at 8 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall, UC Campus. Tickets are $15-$20.

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Sculpture in America is at present at a high point, both in terms of quality and diversity. Currently, SFMOMA presents a retrospective by the celebrated African-American sculptor Martin Puryear, which came to San Francisco from New York’s Museum of Modern Art. It was preceded there by a major exhibition of the preeminent Richard Serra of giant curved steel slabs generating kinesthetic responses on the part of the visitor.

Puryear, in great contrast, creates hand-crafted work. He studied at Yale with Minimalist sculptors, including Serra, and then rejected art which was conceived by the artist and then fabricated industrially. Before his studies at Yale, Puryear had gone to Sierra Leone in the Peace Corps, where he was able to experience living in a tribal culture, from which most black American slave ancestors originated. He then went to Sweden, a country in which craft tradition is still very much alive. And, after graduating from Yale, he went to Nashville, Tenn., to teach at a historically black college. By the mid-’70s he had established his unique style which is cognizant of many cultures and traditions, combining the craft of woodworking with modernist abstraction and informed by forms of the natural world.

A large work, acknowledging the African-American educator, called Ladder for Booker T. Washington (1996), is a 36-foot-tall ladder, whose rungs diminish as they come closer to the far-away top. This work, referring to Washington’s illusory dreams about slow upward mobility, was also seen when the Berkeley Art Museum mounted a fine smaller retrospective of Puryear in 2001.

In the present show the ladder is suspended above the lobby where the viewer also sees the large Ad Astra (To the Stars) (2007). Rooted in a pair of wagon wheels and a multifaceted black form, it leads to an ash sapling, which is extended by an additional tapered limb that seems to reach to the stars.

Most of the works are installed in a large high gallery on an upper floor. The display here is more generous than it was in New York, giving plenty of room to these pieces which need to be seen from all sides. Another sculpture that refers to black history is called C.F.A.O. (2006-07). The acronym stands for Compagnie Française de l’Afrique Occidentale, which was the name of a trading company implicated in the slave trade. Here the artist used an old wheelbarrow which he found at Alexander Calder’s property in France, on which he mounted a dense scaffold of interlocking pine rails to which he attached a oversize Gabon mask. All these elements with their different cultural implications evoke thoughts about colonizations and cultural exchange. In the exhibition there are also a number of works of wire mesh which are covered with tar, pieces which appear solid when seen from a distance, but are actually crosshatched layers of mesh to which the tar was applied, resulting in sculpture which is translucent and opaque at the same time. Many of the abstract sculptures in the show refer to the real world, suggesting waterbirds, plants, baskets and boats.

In an interview printed in the catalog, the artist, whose work is on location in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Seattle, and Tokyo, speaks of public sculpture, an issue of controversy here in Berkeley. He talks about allowing the sculpture “to hold its own next to the architecture and yet to have a relationship to the human moving across the plaza ... In addition to the pragmatic issues of working outdoors, making sculpture for public spaces forces the artist to confront the question of what it means to take his or her ideas ... out into the world where the work has to define itself. Under these circumstances the connection you can have with the public has a lot of uncertainty about it, but that’s what makes it an interesting challenge.”
DOONESBURY

G. B. Trudeau

The coming week is likely to see most, if not all, individuals affected by a sudden but not altogether unexpected drop in energy -- accompanied, of course, by a drop in enthusiasm and drive. Some will, of course, make the mistake of thinking that this is a permanent development, and for them it will be a hard, emotional week. Others will recognize that this is just a part of the cyclic nature of things, and that what goes down will, again, bounce right back up again. Some will be able to pinpoint an exact cause, but not all.

He or she who is able to spend more time at home this week -- working, resting and reconnecting with family members and, of course, oneself -- can claim a great benefit by week’s end. Home is where the heart is, surely -- and it is also where one can be healed, reinvigorated and remotivated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 7) -- You may be facing something daunting, but you know how to get the job done. A critic can provide a keen insight. (Dec. 8-Dec. 21) -- You’re going to have to consider alternatives. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 6) -- You’ll be able to read the signs, but it doesn’t mean you’ll be heading in the right direction. Interpretation is key, of course. (Jan. 7-Jan. 19) -- What begins quickly in slow down to allow you more time to focus your energies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 3) -- You’ll have the opportunity to undo a great many errors made by others in the past. Don’t let confidence wane. (Feb. 4-Feb. 18) -- You’re going to want to keep going, no matter what. Energy may decrease, but your goal is in sight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 5) -- A surprise comes your way in an unusual way, and you may not recognize its worth at first. Later in the week, you’ll see the light. (March 6-March 20) -- It’s time for you to do things by the book, if you haven’t been already. If you have, continue the course.

ARIES (March 21-April 4) -- You may not get the kind of exciting message you’ve been waiting for, but those you do get will bring with them great meaning. (April 5-April 19) -- You’re going to feel connected with family members or good friends before the week is out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 5) -- You have much to learn about yourself and how you behave in certain situations. You’ll have ample opportunity to do so. (May 6-May 20) -- Communication may not come as easily to you as usual. Take it slow; don’t overcomplicate matters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 6) -- You’re on the crest of a new pattern of sorts, but you’re going to have to head off in a new direction. (June 7-June 20) -- Quality that counts, not quantity, especially when loved ones are concerned.

CANCER (June 21-July 7) -- It’s a good week to slow down and take a hard look at where you are and where you’re heading. You’re plans may not be working out. (July 8-July 22) -- Quality that counts, not quantity, especially when loved ones are concerned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 7) -- You may feel trapped by circumstances, but in fact it’s only your own attitude and perceptions that are holding you back. (Aug. 8-Aug. 22) -- What you do and say can be quite entertaining, but you want to be sure it’s substantial as well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 7) -- You may feel trapped by circumstances, but in fact it’s only your own attitude and perceptions that are holding you back. (Sept. 8-Sept. 22) -- If you’re on the lookout for someone to call on, this week can bring you satisfaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 7) -- You may feel trapped by circumstances, but in fact it’s only your own attitude and perceptions that are holding you back. (Oct. 8-Oct. 22) -- What you do and say can be quite entertaining, but you want to be sure it’s substantial as well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 7) -- Others are sure to get in the game with you, resulting in a surge of accomplishment that defies conventional wisdom. (Nov. 8-Nov. 21) -- One last look at a past error can have you setting out on a path that is free of repetition.

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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.

"MY OTHER NEWSPAPER IS THE BERKELEY DAILY PLANET."

“Of course the New York Times covers the world. But nothing covers my personal planet like the Berkeley Daily Planet.”
- Elmore Wuffle

Sudoku Puzzle

1.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆☆☆☆

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆☆☆☆

SYLVIA

Nicole Hollander

Special Goddesses Private Goddesses can put a good spin on the most depressing situation.

Your Financial Statement Has Arrived... You Don’t Want to Know the Full Extent of Your Losses...

Yet You Don’t Want to Be a Total Wimp... Your Goddess Will Help.

Pray to this Goddess on an altar of old sunglasses and losing lottery tickets, then open your financial statement... When it turns into a pretty drink with an umbrella and fruit at the bottom.

If we have a snow day... It’s a hard day because of our first unseasonable freeze...

Hi Boys, are you excited about the new problem?

I think she gives people a dose of reality...

If Rapha Can’t Get His Money, He’s Not Getting a Gift...

Harry, It’s Illegal to Serve Alcohol to a Moose in Alaska.

No, it’s not illegal, but it is unwise...

 Didn’t we agree that no more jokes on moose?

A priest, a rabbi, and two Caribou walk into a bar...

I know everyone’s got a wish list for our new president, so I thought I’d wait, let him settle in before I called. But then the phone rang and it was Barack calling to say how thrilled the girls were with the puppy I sent over, and they were making it “official” after my last phone call and the thing led to another and now I’m ambassador to France—luckily I’m fluent.

The woman who sees in her... PERSONAL JOURNAL

Oh, right, like never-thought-of...

Hey Fella, I’m really sorry... the days just slipped by. I was supposed to wake you on November 5, the date today. What’s the difference? You’re a winner—yeah, the old one. Yeah, a Landslide, a landslide, Congrats...

Some Americans asked to be pit in a state of suspended animation until the election was over.

How is Ella with your wake-up call? Hang on, Earl wants to apologize... He’s going to tell him all.

Some Americans asked to be pit in a state of suspended animation until the election was over.

Hey Fella, I’m really sorry... the days just slipped by. I was supposed to wake you on November 5, the date today. What’s the difference? You’re a winner—yeah, the old one. Yeah, a Landslide, a landslide, Congrats...

LOUI’S GARAGE

Peter Conrad

COFFEE? NO.

CAN YOU REACH THAT WREATH? NO.

WANT TO GO TO A GARDEN CENTER? NO AND I’M NOT MERCHANDISING!

HOW WAS YOUR THANKSGIVING? NO, I’M STAYING IN BED.
2. Answers to the Sudoku puzzles from the preceding page.

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

Golden Gate Fields for Sale
As Magna Reorganizes

continued from page one

announced Wednesday are carried out, company founder Frank Stronach, a Canadian car parts magnate, will wind up owning all the shares.

Originally created as part of Magna International, Stronach’s parts firm, the race tracks and associated ventures were spun off into a separate firm, MI Developments (MID) with Magna Entertainment as a subsidiary.

According to the company’s announcement Monday morning, once the proposed transactions are completed, MECA will ultimately be controlled directly by the Stro

nach Group, MID will no longer have any ownership interest in MECA and MID will be prohibited from further investments in the company with approval the MID minority shareholders.

MID agreed to provide interim financing, and MECA agreed “to use commercially reasonable efforts to sell or enter into joint ventures in respect of its assets, including its core racetrack assets,” according to the corporate announcement.

In addition to Golden Gate Fields, the company owns Santa Anita Parking, Hollywood Park, California, Laurel Park and Pimlico in Maryland, Portland Meadows in Oregon, Lone Star Park in Texas, Remington Park in Oklahoma, The Meadows in Pennsylvania, Gulfstream Park in Florida and the Magna Raci

no in Stro

nach’s native Aus

tria.

Other interests include an off-track betting system and major interests in a television distribution system, a horse racing network and AmTote International, which provides number-crunching services for tracks.

Some of the interim financ

ing would allow the Magna Entertainment to install video lottery terminals—a species of slot machine—at the compa

ny’s Laurel Park track in Mary

land, the result of a statewide initiative held during the Nov. 4 election.

Upon completion of the transfer, MECA would remain a horse racing company, stripped of its assets and wholly controlled by Stronach.

The company estimated the total value of its assets last week at between $100 million and $120 million. MECA shares shot up after the announcement broke on Nov. 26, starting the day at $1.49 and closing at $2.02. Shares closed Wednesday (a week after the announcement) at $1.25.

The car parts parent company had been reporting steady growth in income until caught in the impact of the current recession. Magna International announced Wednesday morning that it was closing two of its parts plants and laying off 850 workers.

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

(3) Mail subscriptions: You pay the monthly rate plus the cost of postage and handling, and we have your paper mailed to you.

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Terrence at 510-841-5600, Ext. 117

There now, won’t it make you feel good to do something nice for the Planet?
Berkeley Mourns Mumbai Terrorist Attacks

Continued from Page One

channels all the time and we heard it on Aaj Tak at a 10 a.m. last Wednesday. We couldn’t understand what was going on at first so we started crying every time.

Exactly three years ago, Thakkar said, his daughter was married amid much pomp and festivities at Aashiana Nivas on Dec. 18, and if Café Leopold is open I will go there. I am not frightened.”

Thakkar said the woman who was killed after being shot in the neck and then in the head was related to his niece’s fiancé’s best friend.

“She was a manager at the Taj spa, so she was there when the terror was entered the hotel and started shooting people,” he said. “She was only 22 years old. It’s unbelievable, I can’t even bring myself to talk to her family on the phone.”

For some Indian merchants on San Pablo Avenue, the news of the terror attacks in Mumbai was a blow. Although shocking, was not much different from the dozens of terrorist attacks India has witnessed over the years.

“It’s another one of those attacks which shouldn’t have happened,” said Maulin Chokshi of Bombay Jewelry company on University Avenue, whose mother was visiting Mumbai when the attacks happened, and is safe. “It’s pretty sad. Innocent people are the ones that end up dying. That fact that it was an ongoing thing was scary because you didn’t know when it was going to happen next. The terrorists got what they wanted, that is, to create a big headline. The more you see it the more you feel scared. Right now, if you are going to be a tourist in Mumbai, you will think twice. That basically stops the commerce – It’s a new form of war, one where you don’t need tanks, just a person.”

Although many have called the Mumbai attacks India’s 9/11, Chokshi said that the scene of terror in Mumbai and the entire city to ransom. The streets are empty; the entire count has crossed a hundred and several hundreds have been injured. The terrorists have taken hostages at the Taj and the Hilton. They are singling out foreigners, mainly Americans and Britons. There’s a hostage situation at another relatively obscure building called Nariman House, which houses members of an Israeli sect.

The audacity of the attack leaves you puzzled and confused. This time, it’s not the common man on the streets who has been singled out for its display of power. The terrorists have targeted two hotels; they don’t want to follow Gandhian principles any more, they have had enough. You pray that a communal explosion at the next table, the Chabad Jewish House, which is in ruins after the attack, won’t happen and help the Holtzbergs, and had served as emissaries in India for the past five years.

The traditional Jewish reaction to violence is to turn one’s gaze in goodness into the west, said Bracha Leeds, who said she was part of the Hasidic Chabad-Lubavitch movement that had sent the Holtzbergs to Mumbai. “Rabbi Holtzberg and his wife gave up the comforts of the western world to go live there to help businessmen, back-packer – almost anyone in need of a hot kosher meal – and that’s what all chabad members do.”

Leeds’ husband, Rabbi Gil Leeds, said that he had been asked to pray for the Holtzbergs and might offer Rabbi Holtzberg called the Chabad-Lubavitch headquarters in Brooklyn, New York and alerted them about his situation.

“He’s going to go back to being normal,” he said. “I am supposed to be in Mumbai on Dec. 15, and if Café Leopold is open I will go there. I am not frightened.”

All three men said that the Indian government needs to beef up counterterrorist intelligence and national security.

“Any rumor they get, they should act on securing areas that are threatened,” said Chokshi. “They need to increase security threefold, if not tenfold. The policymakers are to blame. They have the power to do something but don’t.”

At UC Berkeley, the latest South Asian organization on campus, is hosting a panel discussion for the victims of the terror attacks, including last night’s candlelight vigil and continuing throughout today (Thursday) with a panel discussion titled “The Mumbai Tragedy and Implications for International Security.”

“A lot of students are definitely interested in the politics behind the attack,” said Drashan Prasad, a member of the Berkeley Jewish student group. “The traditional Jewish reaction to violence is to bring in goodness into the world. It’s the miraculous rescue of their son Moshe by his nanny, he heard him crying and risked her own life by hiding in a closet from the terrorists. It’s frightening, we have a child the same age.”

Riya Bhattacharjee

Continued from Page One

family members all over the country to find their loved ones safe. There are mul-
tiple terrorist attacks at various places all over the city. Apart from Leopold’s Cafe, the Haji Ali Church, the nearby Railway Station, the Taj Hotel, the Hilton, some of the most prominent loca-
tions in Mumbai, have been targeted and attacks lasted for three days,” he said. “The train bombing was instanta-
ously decided, and the attacks lasted for three days,” he said.

“The difference is that this time they targeted upscale hotels, corporate offices, and the attacks lasted for three days,” he said.

“You know the situation is better for the terrorist at this moment; there might be a bomb at any moment; there might be a bomb any moment; there might be a bomb any moment; there might be a bomb any moment.”

You know the situation is better for the terrorist at this moment; there might be a bomb any moment; there might be a bomb any moment; there might be a bomb any moment.

The following morning you decide not
to go to the office. Admit it or not, you are feeling frightened. You feel a shiver run over the city. Apart from Leopold’s Cafe, the Haji Ali Church, the nearby Railway Station, the Taj Hotel, the Hilton, some of the most prominent locations in Mumbai, have been targeted and attacks lasted for three days, “The train bombing was instantaneously decided, and the attacks lasted for three days,” he said.

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Election Hot Air Fuels Blimp Rides
By Bridget Highwater

Election experts confirmed that the hot air generated from both local and national electoral campaigns is not only enough to fuel the world’s largest six-cylinder airship now offering zeppelin rides from Moffett Field, but is enough to fill balloons at children’s birthday parties in the Bay Area for the foreseeable future.

“We thought the election would be the end of it,” observed one local expert. “But the comment was that the generation of hot air is still not stopped, and currently rivals cow manure as a contributor to global warming for the same physiological reasons.”

“The fever is as alive as ever,” stated a scientist. “Small adjustments to ordinary microphones will do the trick, especially if the generation of hot air is fairly constant and seems at present to be practically eternal.”

Experts agree that the discovery bodes well for the switch to alternative energy, since the hot air can be compressed and stored for future use.

“Not only can we store it and sell it,” offered one venture capitalist interested in the hot air project, “we can cater to make it available for Republicans as opposed to Democrats or Green Party supporters.”

MONUMENT TO HOT AIR CONFUSES ART COMMUNITY
Empty Signs Protect Vulnerable Public From Potentially Destructive Ideas
By Axel Fall

After careful examination, art experts confirmed that the unusually slow-moving protesters at the foot of University Avenue in Berkeley are actually a sculpture.

The experts were initially unclear on the meaning of the sculpture.

“We seem to be split,” commented one art expert. “It’s clearly a group of agitated people collected around the commonplace with a variety of issues. We’re not sure if they’re being honored or insulted.”

Local police departments were relieved to know that their inability to move the group along was not their fault.

“We tried everything to move them away from the freeway,” admitted one police officer. “We have some new crowd control equipment and we were concerned that it was somehow defective.”

Carol Brighton, curator of the Addison Street Windows Gallery, admitted that her recent censorship of the Addison Street gallery windows was probably the inspiration for the censorship of the protest sculpture’s signs, which had all lapsed content excised from them.

“Protestors are a fact of life here in Berkeley,” she sighed. “But out here in the open we have to have a concern about children being potentially exposed to rude ideas which may interfere with nap time.”

Napping children supported the decision by waving their milk cartons in delighted approval.

Art critics agreed, noting that while
Post-election Fifth Grade Essay Assignments from “Red” States

Collected by Henrietta Sandwich

While “blue” states celebrate the change to a Democratic administration, elementary classrooms in “red” states are having a far different experience.

“We always prayed for the President in our classroom every morning,” commented one elementary school teacher, “but now we’re starting to see the point of separating church and state.”

Staff writer Henrietta Sandwich visited several Republican strongholds across the nation to find out how public school teachers were assisting their young students in adjusting to the expected political changes by encouraging them to write expressive essays on a variety of topics.

“We have an obligation to help them put their disappointment in perspective, and assist them in planning for the next four years,” explained one teacher. “We play a large role in their lives, and we want to make sure they’re prepared.”

Sample essay topics include:

- “Why Obama’s Election Is the End of the World”
- “What to Wear for the End of Days”
- “Why the Democrats Are in League with the Devil”
- “How to Shop for Armageddon and Save”
- “God’s Electoral Plan for 2012”
- “Why George Bush Was the Best President We’ve Ever Had”

* * * * *

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We chose a numerologically auspicious date for its launch, but we’re not making the media splash we had hoped for.

Find me somebody to face.

by Nathan Undergod

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*Henry VI Part 2

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‘New Music Seance’
Continued from Page Nineteen

berry Winter” — and the solo piano piece by 17-year-old Dylan Mattingly of Berkeley. It’s the first time we’ve featured a teenage composer,” Amirkhanian said.

“Sarah Cahill’s worked with him on this piece,” said publisher George Mattyngton, Dante’s, who met Dylan as a high school senior and student of the John Adams Composition Program at Crowden School, and who has recorded Yu Young-jae’s and Julius Lopez-Morillas as a blind wandel of an older brother from a more parochial hell, can guest there. That was in 1904, the same year Washington wrote the program notes for Deep River, stressing its importance.

“Other works will include solo piano pieces by Samuel Barber, Morton Feldman, Marlena Flajnik, and Martin’s world premiere), Messiaen—and selections from ‘Sanous de Chamb’ by Gabriella Bàn.”

Concert III at 8 p.m., “Ruth Crawford and Her Milieu.” features the “prophecy figure, to people in New Music,” according to Amirkhanian, “the first female who made her own distinctive place in the musical avant-garde, who was unafraid to use dissonance, thinking of it as more reflective of the music... all versions of the avant-gardist who wasn’t elitist!” Crawford (1901-1953) was a musicologist, specializing in 19th-century music, and the stepmother to Pete Seeger.

“She was influenced by Scriabin and Henry Cowell,” Amirkhanian noted. “She was a composer and others among her influences, contemporaries and successors,” including Dane Rudyard, and Hans-Johanna Beyer, as well as Crawford’s “Sonata for Violin and Piano” (1924), “Study in Mixed Accents” (1920), and the stepmother to Pete Seeger.

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December 4-10, 2008 Page 29

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Winter Shelters
Continued from Page One
the cities of Berkeley and Oakland, Alameda County and East Bay service providers, the Winter Shelter operates 100-bed emergency winter shelter out of the former Oakland Army Base on a budget of $100,000. That represents 90 percent come from the City of Berkeley.

Fifty of the 100 beds are set aside for Berkeley residents.

The Berkeley City Council recently approved an additional $5,000 in funds in October to cover the cost of increased heating and operating costs, which raises Berkeley’s total contribution to $61,000.

While the City of Oakland is a foundation that received a slight increase in funding this year, Micallef said that the army base was shut down and has had to start daytime youth services as part of the city’s Public Commons for Everyone initia-
tive.

According to DeLyanda DeLeon, assis-
ting director at YEAH!, the youth hostel had to turn away 15 people when it opened on Nov. 24 and already has lines wait-
ing to sign up for a spot almost an hour before opening time.

In the past seven to 10 boys and girls

loves a good laugh. Of course, as an
Idahoan, he also has a serious side. Waverly
is passionate about the environment and
about protecting the earth’s water resources and keeping them clean. Waverly is also passionate about the
cloud and Lola the flower of the bunch,
teach kids that their “idilly biddy mats” and
“green peas” are not just pretty, but also
serve a purpose.

Scout the cloud and Lola the bunch,
Waverly, along with his friends, Scout the
fish, and birds. There is a page for the
rainbow and Lola the flower of the bunch,
Waverly, along with his friends, Scout the
fish, and birds. There is a page for the

Green Gifts for Good Kids
Continued from Page Seventeen

18. Wham-O—Re-Flyer Recycled Frisbee
$8.99, 5-12 yrs., 888-942-6650, www.wham-o.com,
contact@wham-o.com

Whether you’re in the backyard or schoolyard, or at the beach, lake, or park, the Re-Flyer is a modern take on the original Wham-O disc! New from Wham-O is the Re-
Flyer, Recycled Frisbee® Disc, made from 50% post-consumer recycled content and packaged using recycled cardboard. This is a great and socially responsible gift of lots of physically healthy activity that offers hours of endless fun. This product won the Dr. Toy’s Best Class-
ses for 2009.

19. Wild Republic—Bindi Outback Adventure Talking Doll
$19.99, 3-5 yrs., 800-808-9678, www.wild-
derp.com

This is a new and interesting environmentally attuned product. Your child will be able to power a new line of toy vehicles with the energy of kinetic energy. “Made in Vermont” on the package. Children wear LED-lit hats that plug into durable, attractively designed vehicles wearing LED-lit hats that plug into

14. Maple Landmark—Montgomery Block
$35.00, 18-36 mos., 800-421-4223,
www.maplelandmark.com, thefolksofmapleland-
mark.com

A set of 28 blocks with a proportional assortment of letters and numbers for cre-
vative play. The blocks are made of 100 per-
cent natural rubber in a red body with wide black tires and red hubs, it is soft and smooth to the touch. Easy to assemble and clean. Each product is proudly stamped with “Made in Vermont” on the package. Chil-
dren can make a big difference. “The

Adventure Talking Doll

16. OVI—Robotic Arm Edge
$39.95, 3-8 yrs., 800-421-4223, www.maple-
landmark.com, thefolksofmapleland-
mark.com

The Maple Sugar business and farm. which
will keep children engaged in creative
play, is the only Ph.D. in child development
who has been referred to the Berkeley
City Council by the City Council for the
second time this year so that they have some-
thing to keep warm in when the shelter re-
opens.

“Shelters are not the answer,” he said. “Permanent housing is. It’s not a matter of “They need to take moral responsibility.

20. Zabazoo—Stonees
$59.99, 3-6 yrs., 970-472-0321, www.sprig-
toy.com

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ses for 2008.

the first products from this new, environ-
mentally responsible toy company created
by award-winning industry veterans. The
series is built around The Discover Re-in-
spired, battry-free, lightweight, and

17. Sprig Toys—Sprig Adventure Series Deluxe
$99.99, 3-6 yrs., 970-472-0321, www.sprig-
toy.com

This is an exciting new environmentally attuned product. Your child will be able to power a new line of toy vehicles with the energy of kinetic energy. “Made in Vermont” on the package. Children wear LED-lit hats that plug into durable, attractively designed vehicles

21. Kids Think Big—Think Green! $17.95, 10 yrs. and up, kids-thinkbig.com, info@kidsthinkbig.com

Think Green! is the first child’s book that goes into history topics on the back cover. The eco-audit shows how many resources were saved printing Think Green! on recycled, 100 percent post-consumer processed chlorine free paper. Maybe Think Green! will set the trend for all books.

This book introduces and edu-
cates your youngest generation on ways to think and act green through colorful illustrations, experiments, fun facts and ideas for children to help keep the earth clean and safe for all people, animals, fish and birds. There is a page for the
children to write and draw in their own
ideas!

15. ISEO Chemdis—Moderno the Racer
$12.90, Moderno the Racer, info@rubba-

13. Kids Think Big—Think Green! $17.95, 10 yrs. and up, kids-thinkbig.com, info@kidsthinkbig.com

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ideas!

14. Maple Landmark—Montgomery Block
$35.00, 18-36 mos., 800-421-4223,
www.maplelandmark.com, thefolksofmapleland-
mark.com

A set of 28 blocks with a proportional assortment of letters and numbers for cre-
vative play. The blocks are made of 100 per-
cent natural rubber in a red body with wide black tires and red hubs, it is soft and smooth to the touch. Easy to assemble and clean. Each product is proudly stamped with “Made in Vermont” on the package. Children can make a big difference. “The

16. OVI—Robotic Arm Edge
$39.95, 3-8 yrs., 800-421-4223, www.maple-
landmark.com, thefolksofmapleland-
mark.com

The Maple Sugar business and farm. which
will keep children engaged in creative
play, is the only Ph.D. in child development
who has been referred to the Berkeley
City Council by the City Council for the
second time this year so that they have some-
thing to keep warm in when the shelter re-
opens.

“Shelters are not the answer,” he said. “Permanent housing is. It’s not a matter of “They need to take moral responsibility.

20. Zabazoo—Stonees
$59.99, 3-6 yrs., 970-472-0321, www.sprig-
toy.com

This product won the Dr. Toy’s Best Clas-
ses for 2008.

the first products from this new, environ-
mentally responsible toy company created
by award-winning industry veterans. The
series is built around The Discover Re-in-
spired, battry-free, lightweight, and

17. Sprig Toys—Sprig Adventure Series Deluxe
$99.99, 3-6 yrs., 970-472-0321, www.sprig-
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Dealing with Sudden Oak Death: Dying by Degrees

In dealing with Sudden Oak Death, we’re trying to limit or cope with an enormous wide-ranging biological change, the sort of thing we can’t quite map let alone stop. Its outlines are almost fractal; one complication leads to more and those to more still, and that’s true at whatever scale we see it. But fractals can be calculated, and we don’t quite have the knowledge to calculate this stuff precisely.

Scale changes our maps in a perverse way right from the start: The smaller-scale the organism that’s been introduced to a naïve population, the larger the effects will be.

Green Neighbors
By Ron Sullivan

That’s practically a law of history. Europeans inflicted breathtakingly evil slaughter on the humans they met in the Americas, but guns and steel were outdone in killing by the germs they brought with them, long before they had a clue about microorganisms.

Similarly, we can’t stop Phytophthora ramorum by sitting in treetops or in front of bulldozers or in courts of law. As UC Environmental Science researcher Brice McPherson put it, “There’s no way to eliminate the pathogen short of a neutron bomb—if even that worked.”

We can’t protect wild trees from it or from opportunistic insects like the ambrosia beetles that are apparently making individual infections invariably fatal. They’re also making individual sick trees more dangerous to humans and other animals: their galleries, bored into damaged tree limbs, can be so quickly numerous as to make the limb fall off spontaneously. Bad news compounds bad news when the trees we’re talking about are in the parks that do double duty as wildland preserves and recreational refuges for us breakable humans.

We’re doing one thing right, at least—or at least not doing one thing we did wrong against the chestnut blight that devastated Eastern North American forests less than a century ago. Yielding to our cultural imperative to Do Something and helpless to cure beloved chestnut trees, foresters tried clearcutting a cordon sanitaire around many of the identified loci of infection. This, along with strict quarantine zones, might have worked except that spores of what we currently call Cryphonectria parasitica—a true fungus, unlike P. ramorum—traveled faster than law or loggers.

In their thoroughness, foresters leveled every chestnut they could get to in these areas, healthy-looking or not. Now we find ourselves scouring the continent for isolated remnant chestnuts in hope that these individuals were exposed to the blight but managed to resist or survive it.

Biologists have been collecting seed and crossbreeding some with resistant Asian chestnuts to renew the species.

There are chestnut orchards in America now, some local to us, but the eastern forests have been changed forever. Even the oaks that replaced the chestnuts in some ways are showing problems now, partly because they’re all about the same age, an unnatural situation, a sort of temporal monoculture. Some oaks in the hardest-hit, best-studied places in Marin County are surviving the first tide of death. Their resistance might be inheritable.

Meanwhile, redwoods are said to be sweeping into some oak-deprived places. It would be good to see that devastated species make a comeback too.