Teacher wants robotics students, parents to behave
Page 3

Upfront  Granny units prompt flood of public comment Page 3

At School  Gunn students speak their minds Section 2

Sports  Pinewood girls reach state basketball finals Page 26
LOS ALTOS HILLS

Elegant 5bd/3.5ba home with striking architectural details, exceptional amenities and fabulous floor plan for entertaining. Nestled in a background of lush woodland this contemporary home is on 1.71+/- acres with a spacious level lawn and wonderful views.

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$1,188,000
Upfront
Local news, information and analysis

Stricter guidelines for robotics team?

Teacher plans to draw up behavior guidelines for students and parents to sign
by Alexandria Rocha

L
ike unruly parents reprimanded at their children’s sporting events, the parents — and student members — of next year’s Gunn High School Robotics Team will have to sign behavioral contracts promising to stay in line.

“My want to make it clear that at a certain point, parents and students may have to accede some control. They may not be able to get their way just because they’re the loudest people,” said Bill Dunbar, Gunn teacher and robotics coach.

In January, two students on the team received restraining orders at the request of two classmates, causing Dunbar to take a month-long leave of absence and Principal Noreen Likins to shut the program down for the remainder of the year.

While district officials said the orders were unnecessary, the two students who filed the orders and the parent who guided their complaints said the district ignored the reports of harassment for nearly two years.

Despite what school officials say, a judge in the Superior Court of California, Santa Clara County granted the restraining orders Jan. 28 — one for a female team member who accused a male of sending her hundreds of unwanted instant messages and staring at her in class, and a second for a teen who said he was being bullied by another male on the team.

As this situation escalated, the robotics team quickly grabbed headlines. Various Web blogs also surfaced with team members, parents and outsiders firing off dozens of rumors — none of which made what really happened inside the classroom any clearer.

Some said the team’s dissolution had more to do with the one (continued on page 10)

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Praying for food

Residents often speak passionately before a city council about what a city needs, but sometimes it doesn’t help it ask for help from above, too.

Nine ministers and 100 or so people gathered at the steps of East Palo Alto City Hall Saturday afternoon to pray for a supermarket.

In a city with 54 churches, the congregations are part of the glue that has held the community together through its most difficult days.

Now, the ministers are ratcheting up pressure on the city leaders to bring a supermarket to the city.

The issue has been vexing the City Council, too. Two large redevelopment projects have been built in the last decade, but the inability to get a supermarket built has been the most glaring failure of the city since its 1983 incorporation.

Not that the city hasn’t tried. Both Safeway and Albertson’s (then Lucky Stores) reportedly took a look at the 6-acre site at Bay Road and University Avenue, where a Palo Alto Co-op Market stood in 1970s — and walked away, believing that the city couldn’t economically sustain a large supermarket.

After incorporation in 1983, the former grocery store site was one of a stop-over shopping area — for illegal drugs. Police eventually cleaned that up. Knocking down the shells of the buildings of the former shopping center was seen, post-incorporation, as a sign of progress and of promising for the future.

But the promise has been a long time coming. The site has lain fallow for almost 20 years.

Now there is a supermarket developer, Blake Hunt Ventures, that is negotiating with the landowner, a group called Washingtonia, Inc. But is negotiating with the landowner, a group called Washingtonia, Inc. But is negotiating with the landowner, a group called Washingtonia, Inc. But is negotiating with the landowner, a group called Washingtonia, Inc.

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Deacon J.T. Turner of Open Bible Church said that site was “designed to be a blessing to the people.” He prayed that if the people holding up completion of an agreement “have a stone heart, remove the stone heart and replace it with a fleshly heart.”

And Pastor Clifton Bennett of Walls of Faith Ministries noted that “the Bible says that there is wickedness in high places” and offered a prayer for the council to “exercise righteousness” for the people.

Steve’s event was co-sponsored by the Community Ministerial Alliance of East Palo Alto, Peninsula Interfaith Action and Youth United for Community Action.

The ministers sat on chairs in front of the doors to City Hall, turning to speak. Looking up from the parking lot, members of their congregations, many still in church-going clothes, applauded them. The scene added a new dimension to residents’ long-standing frustrations about having to cross the freeway to buy groceries.

Then Rev. Macklin’s strong, clear tenor rang out over the crowd as he led people in singing the hymn.

“By the grace of God, we are able to do this work,” he sang.

Weekly Senior Staff Writer Don Kazak can be e-mailed at dkazak@paweeekly.com.
GOING OVER THE CITY’S HEAD

About 100 people and nine ministers gathered in front of East Palo Alto City Hall last Sunday afternoon to pray for a supermarket for the city. Negotiations over the sale of a likely site across from City Hall have stalled, leading to concerns that the store might not be built. The city has been without a supermarket since its 1983 incorporation, while a smaller grocery store was torn down in the 1990s to make way for the University Circle office buildings and hotel. The city selected a supermarket developer in 2003 for a 6-acre site, but negotiations over the sale of the land have not been successful so far. Mayor David Woods said Sunday that getting a supermarket built is a priority for the city, but added it was unlikely such a store would be built within the next 15 to 20 months. —Don Kazak

The Rev. Floyd Purdy (top) of Faith Missionary Baptist Church leads a prayer vigil in East Palo Alto Sunday afternoon to get a supermarket built in the city. Fritzi Pettis listen to the speakers outside City Hall (above, center). Cassandra Sherer holds her son, 11-month-old Morgen, at Sunday’s prayer vigil (right). The Rev. Mary Frazier of the group Bread of Life Ministries told the crowd, “We need to look at that plot of land and see a supermarket on it” to help realize the community’s vision for the future.
Palo Alto Adult School Presents
Health Choices from a Woman’s Perspective
Saturday, April 16, 2005
9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Palo Alto High School
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$25 Admission
(Includes continental breakfast and box lunch)

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The Healing Power and Medical Benefits of Forgiveness
Dr. Fred Luskin

AFTERNOON SEMINARS
Caring for Myself While Taking Care of Others
Diane Wilson, M.S., Avenidas

Eating Right, Eating for a Better Life
Gina Earle, LCSW, Palo Alto Medical Foundation

The Heart of a Woman
Meg Durbin, M.D., Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Marriage: What Really Makes It Work?
Linda Miller, LCSW, Palo Alto Medical Foundation

Reproductive Aging: When Exactly Is the Right Time To Have a Child?
Lillian Swiersz, M.D., Palo Alto Medical Foundation

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We have no more room.

Mary Caristead, saying the city can no longer accommodate new developments and new residents. Her testimony at Monday night’s City Council meeting was one of many for and against a proposal to allow granny units on 80 percent of the city’s single-family properties. See story, page 3.
A federal investigation into alleged malfeasance by the beleaguered Enron Corporation could benefit the City of Palo Alto.

Enron, which claims the city owes it $48 million for early termination of a contract, is being investigated for inflating electric and natural gas prices by manipulating the market. The actions could have impacted the city’s contract with the corporation.

On Friday, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ordered a comprehensive review of all evidence that Enron may have broken the law and appeared to include Palo Alto’s contracts under that ruling.

Council member Bern Beecham, who represents Palo Alto for the Northern California Power Agency, said the commission’s order Friday “may tend to invalidate contracts we had with them.”

In May 2001, the city signed contracts with Enron to provide natural gas and electricity. The city terminated those agreements on Nov. 30, 2001, when it became apparent the failing company would be unable to fulfill its contracts, according to the city.

Enron filed for bankruptcy protection a few days later, on Dec. 2. More than a year later, in Feb. 2003, the bankruptcy court in New York ordered Houston-based Enron and the bankruptcy court in New York to negotiate a settlement a few days later, on Dec. 2.

“Threatened — that’s what we’re feeling,” said Carlitz Otto, whose street could have 33 homes eligible for the second dwelling units according to a neighbor’s estimate. Relaxing the rules how units on properties smaller than 8,100 square feet “would be a disaster for Palo Alto.”

She nodded vigorously when another speaker said that residents were talking of forcing a city-wide referendum on the proposal if council agreed it.

Other residents felt the city was violating their trust with the granny units. “We thought we were entering into a covenant with the city” by buying in a single-family residential neighborhood, said Mary Carlstead.

She recalled a mayor who predicted the city would one day find itself at a point when it could no longer welcome new development — or additional residents.

“The time has come,” Carlstead said. “We have no more room.”

Some residents even questioned whether additional cottages would be affordable to service workers. A real estate agent estimated that a granny unit could cost $135,000, leading another speaker to predict landlords would charge market-rate rent.

A few residents championed the idea of developing a program to regulate granny units — to ensure that neighborhoods would not be overrun with them, and that the rents would not be sky-high.

In addition to the in-law cottage proposal, the single-family residential zoning-ordinance update would:

- Allow second stories to be built on homes in substandard lots of at least 25 feet in width; homes could be no taller than 24 feet.
- Set the maximum lot size at 9,999 square feet.
- Require noise-producing equipment to be housed and insulated.
- Require 66 percent of neighbors to support a single-story overlay zone, if one is requested for a neighborhood interested in prohibiting two-story homes.
- Clarify how far homes must be set back from the street.
No children left behind in Palo Alto

An error last week by the state Department of Education’s Assessment and Accountability Branch mistakenly included the Palo Alto public school district and 48 others, on a list of those in need of federal assistance.

The flaw was cleaned up late last week and Palo Alto Unified School District officials learned their schools were taken off the list.

At issue was a battle between California’s school accountability system and the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). While the two systems tried to merge accountability models, 49 districts — some among the highest achieving in the state — were mistakenly included on a list of districts that will face sanctions if test scores aren’t improved by 2007.

The problem was mostly centered on NCLB’s requirement that school districts annually test 95 percent of all students in each sub-group, including those in special education and English learners. School officials say the rule is too stringent, especially when a particular sub-group’s population is already small and parents can opt their students out of the standardized tests.

Palo Alto Unified was placed on the list because the state Department of Education didn’t think it tested enough special ed students.

Hopkins wins key pretrial motions

Attorneys defending two Palo Alto police officers will not be able to present evidence that Albert Hopkins, the alleged victim of police brutality, engaged in sexual misconduct.

But evidence that one of the officers, Michael Kan, beat the man because he was trying to impress his superiors will be allowed in the high-profile trial.

A jury selection began Monday. Opening statements were expected to begin on Wednesday, and the trial could last three to four weeks.

According to the officers’ attorneys, Hopkins — who was beaten by Kan and Officer Craig Lee on July 13, 2003 — was fired in 1994 from a job at De Anza College because he sexually harassed three women.

In retaliation, Hopkins sued two of the women and the college for racial discrimination.

“There were people there who didn’t want a black professor there,” said Albert Hopkins’ brother and attorney, Joe Hopkins. “We decided it was better for his career to just drop the lawsuits.”

No criminal charges were ever filed with regards to the incidents. But after a separate incident in 2000, Albert Hopkins plead guilty for disturbing the peace for hugging and kissing a woman he had never met.

Attorney Joe Hopkins insisted it was a misunderstanding.

Santa Clara County Judge Andrea Bryan ruled that none of those incidents were relevant to the trial last week.

The judge also ruled that Deputy District Attorney Peter Waite can present testimony that Kan missed a gun when he patted down a suspect. Kan was reportedly forced to undertake additional training after not engaging in a fellow officer’s fight with a suspect.

Those incidents, Waite said, shows Kan’s motive for beating Hopkins — to prove to his superiors he was aggressive.

After the beating, Kan reportedly told a sergeant: “Hey, I took control out there.”

Last week, the judge also prohibited witnesses from discussing the results of an internal investigation that cleared the officers.

Cap proposed for low-income subsidy

As a cost-saving measure, the City of Palo Alto could cap the discount low-income residents receive on community programs.

The city’s Community Services Department currently gives a 75 percent discount to all low-income residents for classes and other programs. But some residents, by taking numerous classes and enlisting in numerous programs, have received thousands of dollars in subsidies, according to city officials. One family, for instance, received $3,634 in discounts taking 42 programs last year.

Department administrators are proposing capping the maximum benefit any one person can receive to $300. A family can also pool its members’ discounts, so a family of four would get a $1,200 discount it could distribute as it wished.

The city is also proposing a sliding scale so residents with varying income ranges would get 25, 50 or 75 percent subsidies, rather than an across-the-board 75 percent savings.

Last week, the Human Relations Commission recommended the City Council approve the changes. The proposal will go before the elected officials later this year, as part of the city’s budget proposal.

“It seemed like there were a number of cases where a small group of people were way oversubscribing the benefits,” commission chair Jeffrey Blum said.

Commissioner Adam Atito was the lone vote against the proposal. The city is facing a projected $5.2 million deficit for the next fiscal year.

— Bill D’Agostino
Restructuring at the city’s Main Library could squeeze the already small public space at the downtown branch.

PALO ALTO

Downtown library could shrink
Complex plan may reduce public space at branch
by Bill D’Agostino

A complex shuffle of staff and services triggered by the Children’s Library’s temporary closure and remodel, could cost the already small Downtown branch some of its public space.

The rebuild of the Children’s Library is scheduled to begin in September and could last 18 to 24 months.

After the branch closes, walls will be removed from the Main Library to make room for expanded teen programs and for younger children’s programs displaced by the construction.

The circulation desk will also be rebuilt to accommodate new self-checkout machines.

Other improvements will change how materials are presented, according to city officials.

To make additional room at the Main Library, though, workers who order and prepare books for shelving will move from the Main Library to the Downtown Library. Some other city employees, who are not library staff but are headquartered at the Downtown branch, will move once that happens.

Despite such adjustments, city plans call for the public’s space — as opposed to space cordoned off for city staff — at the Downtown Library to decrease from 6,125 square feet to 4,500 square feet.

“A lot of the remodeling will happen in the background,” said Diane Jennings, the manager of the Main Library.

The construction of Children’s Library, which opened in 1940, was originally scheduled to begin in late July. But last week it was delayed until early September. The process of getting approval from the various city commissions is going a bit slower than expected, mostly due to the age of the historic building.

But regardless, city officials insist it’s a preferable timetable. More children use the library during the summer and timing it with the reopening of school will make for an easier transition, according to Melinda Wing, who manages the Children’s Library.

The $2.2 million construction will expand the Children’s Library from 2,800 square feet to 5,410 square feet. A new north wing and south addition will be added, the roof will be repaired, and the library will be seismically retrofitted.

It’s the first major construction project for the building, which opened in 1940.

Architects are currently designing the interior of the new building.

“With the help of the Friends of the Main Library, we have so many great ideas about bringing out the childlike nature of this building,” Wing said.

Staff Writer Bill D’Agostino can be e-mailed at bdagostino@paweekly.com

"We want to move away from this kind of steady deterioration."

—Yoriko Kishimoto, city councilwoman

Library administrators say they intend to inform patrons and the Library Advisory Commission of plans once everything is more concrete. The council’s action last week simply allocated funds, according to Diane Jennings, the manager of the Main Library.

Still, the transformation at the Downtown Library is planned to be long-term and will not be rolled back once the Children’s Library reopens, Jennings said. Many of the changes have been long-desired by library administrators.

The use of the Downtown Library has been a constant source of tension. In 2003, the Library Advisory Commission voted to close the Downtown Library to make more room at other, more popular branches. The council rejected that plan after the Friends opposed it.

Last year, Library Director Paula Simpson floated a plan that would have closed both the Downtown and College Terrace libraries, but the council rejected that as well. City Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto said city staff needed to recognize the council wants to keep branch libraries open.

“We want to move away from this kind of steady deterioration,” she said.

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Palo Alto Weekly • Wednesday, March 16, 2005 • Page 9
Construction has temporarily stopped at the tarp-covered Sunbonnet House.

**Work halted on Sunbonnet House**

Dispute with contractor leaves noted home covered in tarp

by Jocelyn Dong

An apparent dispute between homeowners and a construction firm has halted restoration of one of the city’s most architecturally distinguished homes, the Sunbonnet House in the Professorville neighborhood.

Covered in brown, white, blue and green tarps, the 108-year-old Bernard Maybeck-designed house on Bryant Street hasn’t been touched since January.

“We’re devastated by it. It’s a complete nightmare,” said Michael Flexer, who bought the home in April 2003 with his wife, Caroline Hu Flexer, for reportedly $2.2 million.

The dispute, which Flexer would have written about in a May 17 letter to the Palo Alto Weekly, is over a settlement for the construction of an addition on the original Westlake home designed by Maybeck in 1908.

The two students' complaints of harassment were concealed by the team’s coach, principal and district administration to avoid tarnishing the award-winning robotics program.

“What I don’t have is a place to sign at the bottom that says if you don’t adhere to these things, you’ll be removed,” Dunbar said. “If someone is removed from the team, we can say this is why.”

Many school programs and clubs already require students and parents to sign various guidelines and access documents.

“Don’t think (a behavioral contract is) a particularly unusual thing,” Board of Education President John Barton said. “Every organization has it.”

A couple of recent reports are to protect the people we think are innocent: the teacher and the students on the team who are just trying to be students and they’re not doing anything particularly malicious,” he added.

Dunbar said robotics team members and parents already have to sign a slew of paperwork, such as typical classroom rules and regulations and student expectations.

“Dispute with contractor leaves noted home covered in tarp.”

**Robotics team**

(continued from page 3)

overbearing and disgruntled parent who guided his daughter and her friend to file the restraining orders in a massive power play to take control of the team.

Others said the two students’ complaints of harassment were concealed by the team’s coach, principal and district administration to avoid tarnishing the award-winning robotics program.

Some even said those involved with the team took the program and themselves way too seriously.

“Dispute with contractor leaves noted home covered in tarp.”

Dunbar, who has returned to the school to teach his other classes, including advanced placement physics and engineering technology, said he will re-launch the program next school year.

This week Dunbar is handing out applications to students who want to join the 50-member team. The four students involved with the restraining orders are seniors and will graduate this year.

“The policies we want to set up are to protect the people we think are innocent: the teacher and the students on the team who are just trying to be students and they’re not doing anything particularly malicious,” he added.

Dunbar said robotics team members and parents already have to sign a slew of paperwork, such as typical classroom rules and regulations and student expectations.

“What I don’t have is a place to sign at the bottom that says if you don’t adhere to these things, you’ll be removed,” Dunbar said. “If someone is removed from the team, we can say this is why.”

Many school programs and clubs already require students and parents to sign various guidelines and access documents.

“I don’t think (a behavioral contract is) a particularly unusual thing,” Board of Education President John Barton said. “Every organization has a code of conduct. I wouldn’t read too much into it.”

Dunbar, however, is advocating that administration and board members take the district’s conduct policies one step further by writing and adopting procedures to deal with parent complaints — a notion two board members said is highly unlikely.

“These are parents and they have rights. We can’t tell a parent they can’t say things because they have rights,” Barton said.

Mandy Lowell, the board’s vice president, said it would be impossible to draft a policy that would cover every incident.

“As well-intentioned people are in wanting to craft a policy, being a lawyer I know that no matter how well drawn your policies are, you’re going to have conflicts,” she said.

Dunbar said he has not written the behavioral contract yet, but plans to have it finished sometime this spring when next year’s team members are selected.

“I’m tremendously optimistic that this team has a bright future,” he said.

Staff Writer Alexandria Rocha can be e-mailed at arocha@pawebweekly.com.
**POLICE CALLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>8:27 a.m.</td>
<td>Shooting into vehicle or dwelling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>10:27 p.m.</td>
<td>Attempted suicide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>2700 block Hunter Street</td>
<td>6:05 p.m.; shooting into vehicle or dwelling.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>5:41 p.m.</td>
<td>Battery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>6:24 a.m.</td>
<td>Attempted suicide.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>6:34 a.m.</td>
<td>Robbery.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>6:37 a.m.</td>
<td>Shooting into vehicle or dwelling.</td>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Home invasion.</td>
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<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Burglary.</td>
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<td>March 3-9</td>
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<td>March 3-9</td>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Burglary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VIOLENT CRIMES**

Palo Alto

Unlisted location, 3/9, 6:59 p.m.; sexual battery.

Unlisted location, 3/9, 6:59 p.m.; sexual battery.

1300 block Kavanagh Drive, 3/4, 4:26 p.m.; robbery.

200 block Piner Avenue, 3/4, 6:11 p.m.; domestic violence.

1100 block Westminster Avenue, 3/5, 6:05 p.m.; attempt to rob.

100 block Wisteria Drive, 3/5, 7:52 p.m.; domestic violence.

500 block Wicks Street, 3/5, 10:26 p.m.; robbery.

800 block Paul Robeson Court, 3/6, 1:54 a.m.; domestic violence.

2100 block Dumbarton Avenue, 3/6, 10:27 a.m.; domestic violence.

200 block Verbena Drive, 3/6, 7:51 p.m.; battery.

1500 block Ursula Way, 3/7, 4:34 p.m.; domestic violence.

2400 block Illinois Street, 3/8, 8:37 a.m.; shooting into vehicle or dwelling.

**MISSING PERSONS**

Missing person, 3/3, 3:20 p.m.; assault with a deadly weapon.

Unlisted location, 3/4, 1:22 p.m.; child abuse.

1900 block Louis Road, 3/7, 6:20 a.m.; battery.

200 block University Avenue, 3/7, 5:41 p.m.; battery.

Unlisted location, 3/7, 10:54 p.m.; domestic violence.

Unlisted location, 3/9, 4:59 p.m.; domestic violence.

Unlisted location, 3/9, 6:59 p.m.; domestic violence.

Menlo Park

150 block Alma Street, 3/8, 7:43 a.m.; domestic violence.

Unlisted location, 3/9, 4:59 p.m.; domestic violence.

Unlisted location, 3/9, 6:59 p.m.; domestic violence.

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Edward N. Glaeser, 93, a longtime resident of Palo Alto, died March 10. He was appointed director of the Federal Reserve Bank. The family posted to the Presidio to head the Vietnam War program for the Federal Reserve Bank. The family stayed on after the war. His parents were prominent in the financial and international life of the city for many years, as well as giving their time generously to charitable and educational ventures.

He was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Municipal Finance Officers Association, and he was past president of the California County Auditors’ Association.

He was also a member of the Palo Alto Masonic Lodge No. 346, the Islam Temple Shrine, the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies and the PALO Club, as well as serving on the allocation committee of the United Way of Santa Clara County and as a board member of the Santa Clara County Fair Association.

He is survived by his son, William Glaeser; his daughter, Millie Fuchs; and granddaughter, Caroline Glaeser, of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

He spent much of the next decade writing for publications ranging from The Times of London, the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, the Journal of Higher Education, and the Saturday Review, as well as working as a staff writer for Nature.

She wrote regularly for California newspapers including the San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, and the Los Angeles Times. A science writer, she had a special interest in health care delivery, particularly in trauma care.

She had a loyal following of clients, many of whom became dear friends.

In lieu of flowers, the Don Jones Foundation has established a benefit fund in need each holiday season.

He was a passionate family man who loved traveling the world with his wife, Amy; flying his plane out of San Carlos airport; captaining his ski boat in the Colorado river; watching 49ers games and NASCAR races; restoring hot rods and taking long drives. He enjoyed hosting family and friends at his home, where he could be found behind the grill or in the pool.

He was a native San Franciscan, graduate of San Francisco Public Schools and the Palo Alto Military Academy, and 72-year resident of San Mateo. He co-founded Ace Fire Equipment in Palo Alto more than 50 years ago, where he served as president and worked hard until days before his death. His family-run business remains as one of his proudest achievements.

He is survived by his wife, Amy Jo; daughters, Debbi Hansen, Gayle Ledder, Kristina Poirier, Allison Smith and Mollie Overa; sons, Morgan Jones and Adam Jones; sons-in-laws, Mike Hansen, Jim Ledbetter, Steve Poirier, Bill Smith and Keith Overa; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 1532, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

In lieu of flowers, the Don Jones Foundation has established a benefit fund in need each holiday season.

Douglas Powers

Douglas Colvin Powers, 68, a resident of Palo Alto, died Feb. 10.

He was finishing a sunset stroll in his favorite “paradise,” Puerto Escondido, Mexico, when he suffered an aortic aneurysm.

He grew up in Berkeley and was in management at Ampex Corporation in Redwood City. He managed buildings and grounds for Redwood Glen Conference Center in Loma Mar, and had his own home-repair business on the mid-peninsula.

He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Donna Smith-Powers; sons, Neil Powers and Greg Powers; stepchildren, Darin Reddy and Melanie Ramirez; daughters-in-law, Julie Powers and Melanie Reddy; son-in-law, Salvador Ramirez; former wife, Pat Fegg; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for Sunday, April 3, at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, 305 N. California Ave., Palo Alto.

Memorial gifts will be used for rebuilding the family picnic area at Redwood Glen.

He was a MacArthur Grant-winning Palo Alto newspaper science writer, she had a special interest in health care delivery, particularly in trauma care.

She maintained close links with Stanford, both through her own writing and filmmaking, and through her late husband, who worked as director of the Stanford News Service.

She is survived by her children, Pamela Davis Kivelson of Menlo Park, Nancy Stewart of Oxfordshire, England, Alan Davis of Berkeley, Cynthia Kanner of Los Angeles; and stepchildren, Bill Beyer of Los Angeles, Robbie Beyer of Menlo Park, and Amy Theorin of Greater Philadelphia; and her sister, Dr. Phyllis Kempner of San Francisco.

She was born in Orange, Calif., and was a resident of Mountain View for 12 years. She worked for many years in the technical-publications industry as a manager and director.

Family and friends remember her as full of courage, love and zest for life. She wanted to make a difference in the world and made it her life’s mission to do so. She never met a stranger in life, only friends she hadn’t gotten around to meeting yet.

She is survived by her husband, Kevin Turner of Mountain View; daughters, Aria Turner of Mountain View, Charissa Fleischcr of San Jose and Cynthia Fleischer of South San Francisco.

Services were held. The family requests that donations in her memory be made to Glenn D. Rosen, M.D., Stanford University Medical Center, 300 Pasteur Drive, Stanford, CA 94305-5236.

Mary Ann Lally

Mary Ann Lally, a resident of Palo Alto since 1968, died on February 26 from the complications of Alzheimer’s disease. She was born in Newton, MA on October 24, 1924 to Mary H. and Arthur H. Evans. She was raised in Newton and Scituate, MA. She attended Boston University and the Rhode Island School of Design prior to her marriage in 1947 to Philip M. Lally. In 1949, she and her husband moved to Palo Alto, California, and in 1957, to Gavinsville, FL. In 1968, they moved to Palo Alto.

While living in Gavinsville, after her children were well along in school, she resumed her college studies at the University of Florida. She was awarded an AA degree in 1980. After moving to California, she continued at San Jose State University, receiving a BA degree in 1972, with a major in Art History and a minor in Special Education. She subsequently became a docent at the Stanford University Art Museum (now the Cantor Center).

Mary Ann was a talented artist who produced pencil sketches, watercolors and oil paintings. For many years, she belonged to the Palo Alto Art Club (now the Pacific Art League).

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her sons, Jeffrey of Fremont, Stephen of Palo Alto and James of Eugene, OR; a grandson, Evan, also of Eugene, and a sister, Jane Walker of England, Alan Davis of Berkeley, South Dartmouth, MA. Mary was an active member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Palo Alto from 1968 until her illness forced her to curtail her activities. In addition to her lifelong interest in art, Mary Ann was an adventurous cook who loved to entertain. She also loved travel and managed to see a good bit of the world.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the Alzheimer’s Association. A memorial service will be held on Monday, April 4 at 5 pm at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., PA.
Call for Entries
14th Annual Palo Alto Weekly
Photo Contest

Categories
• Peninsula People
• Peninsula Images
• Views Beyond the Peninsula
• Manipulated Images

Prizes in Each Category

First Place: $250 Cash & $100 Gift Certificate from University Art Center

Second Place: $150 Cash & $100 Gift Voucher from UCSC Extension Art + Design Department

Third Place: $100 Cash & $100 Gift Certificate from Photo Express

Youth Award:
• 1st Place $75 Gift Certificate from University Art Center and Art Class at Palo Alto Art Center
• 2nd Place $50 Gift Certificate from University Art Center
• 3rd Place $25 Gift Certificate from University Art Center

Judges

Norbert von der Groeben
Norbert von der Groeben joined the staff of the Palo Alto Weekly as Chief Photographer in July 2003. Prior to working at the Weekly, Norbert spent 17 years as a staff photographer at a daily newspaper, the Contra Costa Times. Norbert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Long Beach State University and majored in visual communications. In addition to his photos being published by the Palo Alto Weekly and the Contra Costa Times in the last two decades, his pictures also have appeared in such magazines as People, Business Week and Vanity Fair. Norbert has also published a children’s book, “Fire Station Number 4.” Author Mary T. Fortney wrote the text and Norbert provided the photos.

Joe Quever
Joseph Quever was born and raised in Palo Alto. He attended Cubberley High School, and studied photography at the UC Santa Cruz. He began his professional career producing album covers for Columbia Records, and assisting noted Bay Area photographer George Fry. He opened his own commercial photography studio in downtown Palo Alto in 1989, utilizing medium and large format cameras, and his work has been displayed across California. Many of the photographs produced for his clients (mostly advertising, catalog and corporate) have won design awards recognized in their respective industries. He has relocated to Mountain View, and has had a relatively recent shift to digital — as requested by many of his clients. He continues to be excited by the ever-changing visual medium, which took him on a two month hiatus, to study filmmaking at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Dave Hibbard
Fine art photographer David Hibbard traces his career back to age seven when on a family vacation he attempted to record the magnificent Big Sur coast with a Brownie camera. Encouragement, first from Ansel Adams then later from Marion Patterson helped David find his way as a photographic artist. The forest, coastal, and wetland environments of the Bay Area — places he has explored with great care and patience — are an ongoing focus of his work. His photography has won many local awards (including previous Palo Alto Weekly contests). David frequently exhibits his work and teaches workshops on the art of photography. A sampling of David’s recent work can be seen at www.davidhibbard.com.

Brigitte Carnochan
Brigitte Carnochan (a 1993 PA Weekly Photo Contest winner) is both a fine art and documentary style photographer. She has published and exhibited nationally and internationally. In the summer of 2004 she had a solo exhibition with a catalog, “Organic Forms,” of her hand-painted gelatin silver photographs at the Albuquerque Museum in New Mexico. Her work and newest catalog, “Myth and the Natural World” can be seen in Palo Alto at Modernbook Gallery, where she exhibited in November 2004. She teaches hand painting, exhibition and photography project workshops regularly through the Stanford Continuing Studies program and serves on the board of the Santa Fe Center for Photography.

Entry Deadline: April 8, 2005, 5:30pm

Entry Form and Rules Available at www.PaloAltoOnline.com
IN TSUNAMI’S WAKE, PHYSICIANS ALTER WORLD MEDICINE THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

By Sue Dremann

These Sri Lankan children survived the tsunami and live in a makeshift tent in the mud.

Stanford physician Asha Pillai, a tsunami survivor, dedicates much of her life to humanitarian medicine.
It was a long way from the rarified world of pediatric cancer medicine at Stanford, where the finest technologies are at Pillai’s fingertips. Victims came in by the minute, with up to 70 patients filling the beds each hour.

Vacationing in Kerala last December, Pillai — a pediatric oncologist at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital — was caught directly in the tsunami and its aftermath. Images of the disaster are etched indelibly in her mind: Parents fainting at the sight of their dead children; broken bodies, crushed by crumbled homes; the smell of rotting flesh; and daylight blackened by hundreds of funeral pyres lining miles of beach.

Yet in the midst of such despair, Pillai also found signs of hope. “When working in a tragedy, everyone is roasting together — every moment is very full,” she said. “The humanity in people comes out in a very clear level.”

Such moments leave their mark. Since returning to the Bay Area, Pillai can’t stop discussing the sense of mission — and accomplishment — gained. Pillai’s, and other medical professionals’, experiences are driving peers toward joining a growing movement to aid the underserved.

“Twenty years ago, there were isolated incidents of physicians’ participation in overseas projects. Now there are any number of organizations with yearly and bi-yearly trips to do medical outreach programs,” said Dr. Jerry Shefren, chief of the General Gynecology Division and part of the international program at Stanford.

“Clearly, there’s an increase. There’s an overwhelming need in underdeveloped countries — it’s quite dramatic. You can make a major, major impact in a relatively short period of time.”

Reflecting this trend, many medical institutions are tapping into doctors’ desires to impact communities at home and abroad. Stanford has an international program of humanitarian aid in Central America and Africa. Kaiser Permanente has created a pay category to reimburse medical staff who engage in community-based volunteerism.

According to Palo Alto resident Dr. Sarah Beekley, a pediatrician at the Redwood City Kaiser, the health care giant is realizing this kind of experience can be a boon to staff recruitment.

Physicians are starting to join Kaiser based on such opportunities to engage in humanitarian relief, said Beekley, who was in Sri Lanka after the tsunami.

When the tsunami struck, Pillai was in the coastal area of southwestern India helping build a state-of-the-art cancer center.

Three successive waves hammered the coastline right before her eyes. In minutes, all that was familiar was taken away: roads, buses, fishing boats, and the tiny, pastel pink stucco homes dotting the coastline. Many children, home for the holidays, were swept out to sea. The devastation was unfathomable and exacted a profound psychological shock, Pillai said,
Cover Story

adding the hardest hit have been women and children, nearly 50 per-
cent of whom no longer have a living
bread-winner in the family.

Traveling in mid-January, Beekley
witnessed this dismal reality. She
visited rural hamlets, making her
way over roads pocked with potholes
to reach inhabitants living as much
as three hours away from the nearest
town.

With the monsoons dumping rain,
much of the land hadn’t yet drained
from the tsunami. “People were liv-
ing in tents in the mud. They had no
cooking utensils, no birth control, no
medicines,” she said.

Beekley kept an eye out for
emerging infectious diseases, assess-
ing medical conditions in the area,
treating rampant respiratory infec-
tions and dysentery.

The devastation shocked outsiders,
including members of the press, she
said. But Beekley felt privileged to lend a hand.

“At the end of the day, we were
able to say we did something. That’s
the privilege of being a health-care
worker. You have an incredible op-
portunity to go into this area. You
will never feel as fulfilled as you
have after this experience,” she said.

Since Pillai returned to the Bay
Area in January, nearly every
waking moment outside her du-
ties at Stanford — for 40 hours each
week — has been consumed with
giving talks and lectures related to
the tsunami survivors.

Those efforts have begun to pay
off. Pillai, who has long worked
abroad under the auspices of the
nonprofit Mata Amritanandamayi
Center, said the aid organization re-
cently secured a $3.9 million dona-
tion in medical supplies from Direct
Relief International for tsunami re-
lief.

At the center’s San Ramon ware-
house, boxes are brimming with
medical supplies destined for ship-
ment to the region. Local hospitals,
including Stanford and Kaiser, have
donated supplies and equipment.

Pillai plans to return to India in
four months to continue providing
medical care, saying the disaster has
only intensified her commitment.

“There can’t be worse disasters
than what we saw. The forces may
be different, but the destruction can’t
be worse,” she said. “Now I have full
confidence in what we are doing.”

Beekley returned from tsunami-
ravaged Sri Lanka with a similar
sense of urgency.

Already, based on the reports from
Beekley and other doctors, Kaiser
has committed funds for teams of
physicians to travel to Sri Lanka for
two-week stints on a rotating basis.
One hundred physicians are expect-
ed to participate. The medical teams
not only minister to the injured and
sick, but will do collaborative teach-
ing, bringing in technical equipment,
and helping develop a medical
school planned to open in 2006,
Beekley said.

“For me day to day, it has re-moti-
vated me to expand my work to be
more locally-based community
work,” Beekley said. She remains
dedicated to seeing the Sri Lankan
project continue at Kaiser. Before
she went to Sri Lanka she was teach-
ing a six-month program on physi-
cian volunteerism. Her experience
has validated her teaching.

“All of the things I’ve been preach-
ing, I got to go and do again,” she
said. E-mail Staff Writer Sue Dremann
at sdremann@paweekly.com.

The destructive force of the tsunami in India swept away everything in
its path, leaving only this gouged out roadbed.

About the Cover
Dr. Sarah Beekley, assessing
patients in Sri Lanka, is one of
many Bay Area physicians aid-
ing tsunami victims. Photo
courtesy Sarah Beekley.
Experienced doctors and nurses who specialize in children’s health.

www.lpch.org
**Thursday**

“Vincent in Brixton” will run through April 3 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. Written by Nicholas Wright, the play follows a young Vincent Van Gogh, as he arrives in London in 1873 as an art dealer in training. The play will be presented by TheatreWorks. Show times are Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. (March 29 only), Wednesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. (additional 2 p.m. performances March 19 and 26 only), Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. (2 p.m. only April 3). Tickets are $20-$50. For tickets and information please call (650) 941-0551 or visit www.theatreworks.org.

**Artists Encounter the West**

Tours of the exhibition on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free. Docents will give free orientation please call (650) 725-3622 or visit http://cis.stanford.edu/~marigros.

**Saturday**

**Hidden Villa Farm and Wilderness Preserve** will present an evening of Japanese stories around the fireplace tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Visitors Welcome Center. Storyteller Megumi will narrate Japanese tales to honor the Spring Equinox. Her stories will be accompanied by the melodies of a shamisen musician. Tickets are $10/adults; $8 children 12 & under. Reservations are recommended. Hidden Villa is located at 26870 Moody Road in Los Altos Hills. For more information please call (650) 949-8653 or visit www.hiddenvilla.org.

**The Palo Alto Philharmonic** will present an evening of chamber music tonight at 8 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 13313 Newell Road in Palo Alto. The program will feature works by Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Beethoven, Bach, Michael Haydn and Joseph Haydn. Tickets at the door are $16 general, $14 seniors, $7 students. Tickets can also be purchased in advance with a $2 discount at www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?be vaID=72518. For more information please visit www.palhol.org or call (408) 395-2911.

Flutists Gary Woodward and Karen Van Dyke and pianist Miles Graber will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston St. in Palo Alto. Tickets are $25 general at the door; $20 in advance; $12 students at the door; $10 students in advance. All proceeds will benefit the Northern California Flute Camp and its scholarship fund. A buffet dinner will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A silent auction will take place at 6:30 p.m. For more information please visit www.butecamp.com.

**Sunday**

**Golden Bough** will perform today at 2 and 4 p.m. at the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center. The free concerts are part of CSMA’s Applied Materials Concerts4Kids Series (the 2 p.m. concert is geared for pre-school and young children) and Heritage Bank of Commerce Family Concerts Series (4 p.m. concert is for school-age through adults). CSMA is located at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View. Limited, open seating will be available at the door for both concerts on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be available one hour prior to the concerts. For additional information please call (650) 917-4800, ext. 335 or visit www.artsforall.org/tickets.

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**Weekend Preview**

_Flacist Karen Van Dyke will perform on Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto. The concert will benefit the Northern California Flute camp. Van Dyke is the camp’s co-founder and director and also serves on the Stanford music department’s flute faculty. 12:15 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m._

_The Palo Alto Art Center presents three new exhibits: “The Gift: Surimono Prints from Bay Area Collections,” “Spring Pool/Floating Sky: In Praise to Indigo” and “Moving Cabinets: Tansu From the Zentner Collection.” The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto. For more information please call (650) 327-2367._

_Friday_

**“Wonders of Light & Shadow: Art & The Camera”** will be presented tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) at Finn Center, as part of its “Classes w/o Quizzes” Arts Lecture Series. The lecture will be given by Kay Payne of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CSMA is located at 230 San Antonio Circle in Mountain View. General admission tickets are $12; student/senior tickets are $8, with ID. Tickets will be available at the door one hour prior to the event. To pre-purchase tickets and for additional information, call (650) 917-6830, ext. 325 or visit www.artsforall.org/tickets.

_Two x 20,” featuring the work of 20 local photographers, will run through March 31 at Modernbook Gallery. The exhibit is a culmination of a Stanford Continuing Studies course taught by photographer Brigitte Camochan. Modernbook is located at 494 University Ave. in Palo Alto. For more information please call (650) 327-6225 or visit www.modernbook.com._

**Flegels Warehouse Sale**

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**Eating Out**


▓▓▓▓

**COMING UP IN FRIDAY’S WEEKEND EDITION**

**Art**

A feature on East Palo Alto artist John Cadigan, whose works are currently on display at Cafece Espresso in Menlo Park.

**Theater**

A review of “Vincent in Brixton,” the latest production from TheatreWorks.

**ON THE WEB:** Comprehensive entertainment listings at www.PaloAltoOnline.com
Challenge Learning Center

Developing youth leadership from the ground up

Since 1991, Challenge Learning Center has provided rewarding, life-altering leadership opportunities and community-building experiences for more than 25,000 middle-school and high-school students, mostly in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. These teens and preteens are a mix of girls and boys from diverse racial and economic backgrounds. Before their CLC experience, most had never before had the chance to prove their courage and leadership in safe, physically engaging activities.

Whether they’re walking across a cable suspended 30 feet above the ground or learning how to pass a ball to 12 people in 3 seconds, kids in CLC programs unlock their inner strengths, increase their self-esteem, and learn how to help themselves by helping one another. They use these important life skills every day for the rest of their lives.

Why Challenge Learning Center?
Challenge Learning Center gives teens positive choices. Our programs provide a supportive environment where healthy risk-taking is encouraged through physical, learn-by-doing activities. CLC also trains adolescents to lead their peers. This provides them with opportunities to learn responsibility, self-reliance, and the value of community service, enabling them to become active members of their community.

Students Wanted!
One of our programs is a comprehensive, school-year-long program. It teaches groups of 20 to 25 high school students advanced leadership, public speaking, and facilitation skills. Students meet once a week for training sessions, and in the process they form a tight support group. They practice their new skills by performing community service, leading programs for younger students and speaking to service groups. It’s free! Call 650-949-2011 or email info@challengelearning.org if interested in learning more.

Funding Sources:
Program Fees: 50%
Found. & Corp. Grants: 25%
Individual Contributions: 25%
Movies

Movie reviews by Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley and Susan Tavernetti

Note: Screenings are for Wednesday through Thursday only.

The Aviator (PG-13) ***
Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1:20, 3:45, 5, 6:40, 7:30, 8:15 & 10:10 p.m.
Century 12: 11:15 a.m.; 1:05, 4:35, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.

Because of Winn-Dixie (PG) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 11:20 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Being Julia (R) ★★★ 1/2
Century 16: 5:40 p.m.
Century 12: 5:40 p.m.

Born into Brothel (R) ★★★
Century 16: 11:15 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.; Thu. also at 4:30, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:25 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Constantine (R) ★★★
Century 16: 11:20 a.m. & 1:55 p.m.; Thu. also at 4:30, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:25 a.m.; 2:20, 5, 7:45 & 10:20 p.m.

Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13) ★★
Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 2 & 9:35 p.m.
Century 12: 11:25 a.m.; 2:25, 5:15, 7:55 & 10:30 p.m.

Finding Neverland (PG) ★★★
Century 16: 11:25 a.m.; 1:05, 3:35 & 6:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

Gunnar Palace (PG-13) ★★
Century 16: 4:45 & 7 p.m.
Century 12: 4:45 & 7 p.m.

Hitch (PG-13) ★★ 1/2
Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:30, 5:10, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.
Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5:05, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m.

Hostage (R) ★★★
Century 16: 12:10, 2:45, 5:30, 7:50 & 10:30 p.m.
Century 12: 11:40 a.m.; 1:30, 4:45, 6:45, 8:15 & 9:55 p.m.

Hotel Rwanda (PG-13) ★★★
Century 16: 11:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.
Century 12: 11:45 a.m. & 1:45 p.m.

The Jacket (R) ★★★
Century 16: 12:35, 2:25 & 9:20 p.m.
Century 12: 1, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.

Million Dollar Baby (PG-13) ★★★★
Century 16: 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 8:45 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 1, 4, 7 & 10 p.m.

Nobody Knows (P-13) ★★★ 1/2
Century 16: 4:05 p.m.

The Pacifier (PG) ★★★
Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:25, 3:30, 5:45, 8:05 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 12: 11:35 a.m.; 2, 4:25, 6:50 & 9:15 p.m.

Robots (PG) ★★★
Century 12: 11:30 a.m.; 12:20, 1:10, 1:50, 2:40, 3:35, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9, 9:50 & 10:25 p.m.

Sideways (R) ★★★★★
Century 12: 12:30, 4:05, 6:35 & 9:45 p.m.
Aquarius: 7 & 10 p.m.
Walk On Water (Not Rated) ★★ 1/2
Century 16: 5:40 p.m.
CineArts at Palo Alto Square: 2:15, 4:40, 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill (G) ★★★
Century 16: 11:20 a.m. & 11:50 a.m.; 12:20, 1:10, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9, 9:50 & 10:25 p.m.

Now Playing
The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

Gunner Palace ★★★
CineArts, Filmmaker Michael Tucker lived with the 2/3 Field Artillery (“The Gunners”) at Udai Hussein’s bombed-out Al Asimiyah Palace and attempts to capture the humanity and heartache of the lonesome soldier. He manages in abrupt fits and starts. The Gunners live in a viable area of Baghdad with one eye perpetually peeled for hidden explosive devices and ghostly insurgents. It’s fascinating to watch the new American military regime weigh in on the travails of life in south-west Asia, their thoughts ranging from thought-provoking nuggets of wisdom to meandering discourses on kitchen paraphernalia. Personal tragedy punctuates the action and provisional innocence is eclipsed by grisly images of war. A subtle and its surreal surroundings, diminishes its potentially riveting impact. Rated: PG-13 for strong language and violence. 1 hour, 42 minutes. — J.A. (Reviewed March 11, 2005)

Hostage ★★★
(Century 16, Century 12) Ace negotiator Jeff Talley (Bruce Willis) crumbles when a fragile hostage situation leads to a child dying in his arms. One year later Talley still hasn’t recovered. His decision to give up the L.A. inight and become sheriff of a sleepy Ventura County town has led to a frayed relationship with his wife and daughter. Don’t worry Jeff — things are about to get much worse. When three young men break into a businesswoman’s isolated mansion, taking him and his two children hostage, Talley’s quiet life is given a loud wake-up call. To further complicate the dire situation, a group of shadowy criminals kidnap Talley’s wife and daughter, threatening murder if he doesn’t obey their strict instructions. Willis returns to the action-hero material that rocketed his career, but he’s more human this go-round, showing a range of genuine emotion. Some of the film’s most gripping scenes involve Ben Foster as a psychotic villain, who may be Willis’s best nemesis since “Die Hard”’s Alan Rickman. Rated: R for strong graphic violence, language and some drug use. 1 hour, 42 minutes. — T.H. (Reviewed March 11, 2005)

Robots ★★★
(Century 16, Century 12) Under the auspices of Mr. Bigweld (the Lee lacoacca of robots), Robot City was the place that dreams were made of. But there’s a new ‘bot in town: Phineas T. Ratchet (voice of Greg Kinnear) is hatching a sinister plan for the poor old outmodes who require an occasional spare part. No more Mr. Goodwrench; the new regime requires scrap ‘bots to shell out for overpriced upgrades. Enter Rodney Copperbottom (voice of Ewan McGregor), a small-time ‘bot with big-time dreams. With his par-}{

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PALO ALTO NEWS/TIMELINES

NOW PLAYING
The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

Gunner Palace ★★★
(CineArts) Filmmaker Michael Tucker lived with the 2/3 Field Artillery (“The Gunners”) at Udai Hussein’s bombed-out Al Asimiyah Palace and attempts to capture the humanity and heartache of the lonesome soldier. He manages in abrupt fits and starts. The Gunners live in a viable area of Baghdad with one eye perpetually peeled for hidden explosive devices and ghostly insurgents. It’s fascinating to watch the new American military regime weigh in on the travails of life in south-west Asia, their thoughts ranging from thought-provoking nuggets of wisdom to meandering discourses on kitchen paraphernalia. Personal tragedy punctuates the action and provisional innocence is eclipsed by grisly images of war. A subtle detachment pervades Tucker’s document-ary and its surreal surroundings, dimin-

Los Altos Weekly • Wednesday, March 16, 2005 • Page 21

Acquisitive • Palo Alto Weekly
Editorial

A sunny example of civic engagement

‘Heritage Park’ dedication Saturday marked culmination of hard-fought effort by neighbors — who hope it sets the tone for Palo Alto’s future

The more than 150 persons — from senior citizens to toddlers — who gathered Saturday morning to celebrate and dedicate Heritage Park south of downtown Palo Alto basked in sunshine and goodwill.

No one gloated over a hard-fought victory that took neighborhood leaders years of effort to change a narrow strip park into an art size neighborhood park. Instead they spread thanks and praise to a variety of city officials, neighbors and donors who gave nearly $20,000 for park amenities such as benches and play structures.

“My dream is that this can become a kind of town square,” one elderly resident said as people chanted and began drifting off to Saturday-afternoon commitments.

City Arborist Dave Dockter predicted that a California live oak due to be transplanted to a knoll in the park will in a hundred years be known as the centennial oak in Palo Alto and recounted an early history when Stanford students used to race to the top of El Palo Alto, the city’s living landmark redwood tree, each year.

Others were discussing the possibility of occasional outdoor showings of films against a large blank wall of the historic Roth Building — the original 1932 building that housed the Palo Alto Medical Clinic for nearly 70 years — starting with Harold & Maude, with scenes shot in the neighborhood.

Some noted the park is a work in progress — illustrated by the planting of two new trees by members of Canopy.

The park also is a leading candidate to be the site of a 3-million-gallon underground reservoir to expand Palo Alto’s emergency water supply, about which neighbors have mixed views. But those fooled in the sunny Saturday morning, and some neighbors who fought hard for the park shrugged about the reservoir, noting its presence would be virtually unnoticeable once it was constructed.

More than one person choked up when talking about the reality of the park, and cited that reality as an example of what can be done when people get behind a worthy common purpose.

It is in fact a clear example of achievement in a time and commu-
nity when such achievements have seemed hard to come by. As such, perhaps the hope of some — that the park signify both the heritage of Palo Alto’s past and become part of the city’s heritage of how things are done in the future — can become a reality also.

Feds finally take note of Enron’s energy scam

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruling concludes that Enron’s pricing practices — affecting Palo Alto — violated rate-setting approvals

The Enron scandal, as it has become known, still haunts Palo Alto in the form a legal claim that the city owes $46 million under energy contracts it signed. Palo Alto is negotiating with Enron, under a court order from the bankruptcy court handling the case.

In a separate proceeding, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, just issued a “clarification” ruling on the Enron case that concludes energy contracts with Palo Alto and other public-power agencies were within FERC’s domain.

It said that “Enron’s profits under the terminated contracts fall within the scope of this proceeding,” and that the termination payments were based on those projected profits from long-term, wholesale power contracts signed “when Enron was in violation of conditions” of rate setting. (See story on page 7.)

Significantly, the commission noted that based on evidence in sev-
eral related cases, “Enron potentially could be required to disgorge profits for all of its wholesale power sales in the Western Intercon-
nect” between January and June 2003.

City officials are cautiously optimistic about how this might affect the Enron lawsuit. Councilman Bern Beecham speculated that the ruling “may tend to invalidate them.”

FERC’s record of passivity during the rate-manipulation period, when it seemed obvious to many that Enron and other power bro-
ers were secretly colluding to drive up prices, leaves city officials skeptical and cautious. But they are rightfully savoring a significant federal finding in a long process.

Spectrum

Editorials, letters and opinions

Happy for Hopkins

Editor

Oh, silly me. I thought it was offi-
cers Kan and Lee who were on trial for use of excessive force against a citizen.

I didn’t realize it was an issue of whether we should allow the school district to hire a well-known citizen who has had small problems in the past. So nice of the media to carry the attempts at character assassina-
tion to the public.

I have a 15-year-old daughter at Gunn and I’m happy to have Al Hopkins there as a resource for her.

Raymond R. White
Maysview Avenue
Palo Alto

No easy parking

Editor,

“We fine dine” at least once a week for sure, and sometimes twice.

There are several restaurants in the downtowns of Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Los Altos that we’d like to visit. But we take a pass because of the odds against finding a decent parking space without having to drive around a couple of blocks a couple of times.

So we go out to Portola Valley’s Parkside Grille or over to Woodside’s John Bentleys, Village Pub. Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Los Al-
tos — and in that order, in my mind — just plain went and followed the rainbow of growth: Build it and they will come.

Of course, some might argue that we’re just a population possessed of too, too many cars. And I’d agree with that, too.

Ted Bache
Happy Hollow Lane
Menlo Park

McGaraghan (Weekly, Feb. 23) sug-
gests that just staying “light on our feet” sparked by a “healthy spon-
taneity” can break the log jam while liberating us from America’s obdu-
rate resistance to compromise and progress — as if in fact such a melody of thought ever worked in the past.

If I submit we’re polarized because many of the public issues past and present have only two sides, both irreconcilable and almost always hot to the touch. For exam-
ple, how does “healthy spontaneity” resolve the abortion issue? Perhaps a 

No letter to the editor, please. Please send your comments as e-mail to readerwire@paweekly.com.

Free or fee papers?

Editor

Jay Thorwaldson reported on the recent sale of the Daily News to Knight Ridder (Weekly, Feb. 18).

I’m a loyal reader of the Daily and feel grateful it prints my letters. However, I have also subscribed to the “big Newspaper from the North.”

On national and state news, the Chronicle is excellent.

However, since I do freelance work in Portola Valley, Woodside and Menlo Park, I’m also interested in what is happening locally, so the Almanac and Palo Alto Weekly are a nice addition for local news. Quite often, interesting people are being discussed; the kind who wouldn’t make it to the front page of a daily.

There is another paper that comes free to my house, “The Inde-
pen
dent,” and I just discovered it had to reduce its size dramatically. I’m afraid the Internet will eventually hurt all newspapers and more papers will fall.

One thing I don’t understand is why the Daily News is free. I’d rather pay a small amount for a dai-

The Palo Alto Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest.

What do you think? Will the “library-space shuffle” improve service or change how you use libraries?

Letters: Address to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302, or hand deliver to 703 High St, (at Forest Avenue), Palo Alto.

Voice mail: (650) 326-8291 (then press 1)

Fax: (650) 326-8298

E-mail: readerwire@paweekly.com

No anonymous letters or “open letters” to other organizations or individuals will be printed. Please provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. Please keep length to 250 words or less. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.
ly than read interesting articles buried under a ton of advertisements in a free paper.

I’m sure running a newspaper costs a lot. I don’t know why anything should be free in this world — assuming we appreciate the quality of the product. Charging for a newspaper would only be fair to the competition that has been around for a long time.

I wish both the Almanac and the Weekly all the best. You are doing a great job reporting what is happening in my neighborhood.

Dieter Hurni
8th Avenue
Redwood City

Garage-space grudge

Editor,

The 1989 Zoning Ordinance update created a floor-area formula to limit the size of homes based on the size of the parcel. This floor-area formula did not address privacy or neighborhood patterns.

In the fall of 2001, Individual Design Review requires 180 square feet of covered parking to be counted as floor area. This applies to all lots, large or small. Many of the homes in Palo Alto, especially south of Oregon Expressway, are on 5,000- to 7,000-square-foot lots.

Counting the garage as part of their limited floor area has a major impact on smaller lots. The impact is diminished as the lot size increases.

This, in my opinion, is an unfair "tax" on smaller properties. The required covered-parking-space area should not count as floor area. By not counting the required covered space, the inequity of the required floor-area formula will be eliminated.

(continued on page25)

Board of Contributors

Why mom isn’t ready for kindergarten

by Lucy Rector Filppu

When I think about what is expected of kindergarteners these days, I’m sure glad my name won’t be called on the first day of school. Yet when I look at my son sleeping or cuddle it’s not kindergarten I worry about. It’s everything.

The festive red balloons in the Palo Alto School District office beckoned us to celebrate. We had filled out our application, attached our property-tax receipts and signed our names. Our first child is going to kindergarten!

Someone please give me a long time-out.

After all these years at Palo Alto’s Preschool Family we’ve been getting our son ready for kindergarten. But along the way he forgot to get his mom ready, too.

I have several good reasons for not wanting — or perhaps not being ready — to cut my apron strings from preschool.

Sure I can push him out the door and drop him off at school — but turn him over to the powers-that-be of elementary-school education?

The truth is, he may be ready to go, but I’m not ready to let him. Suppose he sneezes and no one hands him a hanky? And there are other tissue issues, too.

What if some other, perhaps bigger kid, picks on him? I taught him to use his words, but deep inside I want to pack body armor — no, “heart armor” — in his backpack next Fall.

If emotional fortitude could replace wrinkles, Botox would have no business with moms. I’m three-plus decades beyond age 5 — you’d think I could act it. But many days the status of my son’s social life renders me an emotional wreck.

Play date doesn’t work out? I despair, I judge.

If my son gets in a playground tiff with another kid, he moves on. I stew. So who’s too emotionally vulnerable for kindergarten?

Often I forget that my son, like all young children, is operating with a new memory hard drive. My memo- ry, on the other hand, is just about shot. How else to explain all the times I read a book to my children and mere moments later can’t recall a single event in the story? Surely my amnesia would not go over well in kindergarten.

For my son, the idea of doing homework is part of his excitement about “big” school. Yet if you ask me what I think of homework, I’ll break down the word and tell you about crayon marks on our carpet and laundry stacked to the roof. Yet another sign that I’m far too cynical for kindergarten.

Most 5-year-olds are an amazing blend of egocentricity and compas- sion. During the endless downpours this winter, my son worried about where homeless people sleep when it’s raining. I, on the other hand, hoped we wouldn’t get a roof leak and once again questioned the high cost of living in sunny Palo Alto. I even lack the heart of a kindergar-tener.

According to preschooler.com, incoming kindergarteners need to be able to identify at least six parts of their body. I identify six parts of my body like this: big, bigger, droopy, achy, squinty and graying. Since these words are from my daughter’s toddler book, it’s just another re- minder that I’m not up to kinder- garden level.

Thanks to years on a computer, my handwriting is part hieroglyph- ics, part emergent scribbling. Can I decipher my grocery list? Some days. Can I neatly print my name? Debatable. Ask me to print out legibly the whole alphabet and I’ll scream for my laptop! Nope. I’m not up for any kindergarten fine-motor challenges.

All I have to do is look at our lo- cal school playgrounds to know I’m not game for any kindergarten gross-motor adventures, either. In addition to stuffing my hips down all those slides, I just can’t stomach the idea of galloping, climbing, leaping, spinning or chasing for ex- ercise. In other words, I’m way too lazy to be in kindergarten.

My son and his friend’s latest flight of fantasy is about aliens. For hours on end they create elaborate UFO scenarios, complete with mon- sters, aliens and an assortment of heroes and villains. Such “out of this world” thinking reminds me that I’m too “of this world” with my ideas. Sad but true. Adulthood has robbed me of my joyful imagination — the birthright of every child.

When I think about what is expected of kindergarteners these days, I’m sure glad my name won’t be called on the first day of school.

Yet when I look at my son sleeping or cuddle it’s not kindergarten I worry about. It’s everything.
Board of Contributors
‘Purple’ politics can lead to practical solutions

by Nancy McGaraghan

What does a 24-year-old male who trudied life in Palo Alto for lobster fishing in Maine have in common with a prominent 70s-something Palo Altan who claims to have displayed the only “Vote for Bush” sign in town during the last election? Neither one, it seems, has much use for the color purple.

Recently I challenged the post-election red/blue polarization of this country for being a simplistic characterization of who we are and how we think.

Cultural and political differences have been around a long time without really hurting anyone. In fact, pluralism is grist for the mill of social change. Now instead of being the basis for compromise, differences are run up the flagpole as irreconcilable schisms.

Many, though not all, of these differences are regional. Result: the red-state/blue-state divide.

I suggested there are good reasons to move beyond this charged red and blue two-step, and consider ways we agree, even if our conclusions are different.

Why not think “purple” for a change?

“Impossible!” was the response I received from these two purple-challenged skeptics, who do indeed make strange bedfellows.

The 24-year-old is our youngest son, Michael. The other, Leonard Ware, is a long-time friend (see “Letters” column). I have great respect for both.

However, they are worlds apart on the political scale, which is why their respective comments are intriguing.

Each in his own way wrote: “Forget about being light on your feet,” and finding common ground as I had (naively, they say) proposed.

Michael cannot imagine social change without struggle. Leo, on the other hand, says, “Call for a vote.”

Majority rules. Struggle versus majority rule. Is it possible that these two irreconcilable beliefs fuel the flames of political polarization?

Notwithstanding the obvious benefits of the democratic process, which must ultimately call for the vote, one needs to be wary of victory shouts that drown out the voice of dissent. “No one can know the whole truth,” is the forgotten truth of partisan politics.

Cultural and political differences have been around a long time without really hurting anyone.

If 53 percent of the voters reelected Bush, then 47 percent had a different agenda. Is it as though it might be for the slim majority and for the President, the voice of this 47 percent contains a huge kernel of truth.

Leo argues that, “...public issues past and present, or at least many of them, have only two sides, both irreconcilable and often hot to the touch.” Two-sided, maybe, but not two-dimensional. Each side represents over-arching values and multi-layered interests.

Buried deep within these layers can be found overlapping values where compromise can begin.

Michael asks how “we go about looking for common ground” between, for example, legal and illegal abortion, a topic as “hot to the touch” as any. The abortion debate persists, even though this country did “call for a vote.”

Neither the debate nor the vote is over. In fact, it can be argued that the vote, but continue to listen to the hopes and fears on both sides. In the 18th century, Edmond Burke wrote: “All government — indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act — is founded on compromise and barter.”

The political arena does not have to feel like a war zone where competing positions close the door on compromise.

Winners do not take all in a society that claims to be, “of the people, by the people, and for the people” — where “people” is understood to mean all of us, not just the ones with the loudest voice.

Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, real-world practical-purple solutions wait in the middle of your opposite poles.

Nancy McGaraghan is a member of the Weekly’s Board of Contributors, and a teacher and board member at Gracenter in San Francisco. She can be e-mailed at chezmcg@hotmail.com.
As costs explode and Boomers get old, hard questions loom in health care, locally and nationally

by David Druker, M.D.

There was a time, not many decades ago, when the American health care system seemed simple. If you were sick, your family doctor made a house call. If you were hospitalized, your insurance company paid — without question. In the absence of advanced technology and prescription drugs, costs were controllable. And nobody had heard of "managed care" or "universal coverage." Fast forward. As new procedures and medications emerge, our health care is in many ways better. But these advances, coupled with demographic and economic trends, have led our health care system to the brink of crisis. Consider these statistics:

1) Per capita health care costs grew 7.5 percent in the first half of 2004, outstripping growth in the U.S. economy, according to the Center for Studying Health System Change. Numerous factors drive this, including ever-growing demand for expensive medical technology and a higher incidence of chronic diseases such as diabetes.

2) There has been a surge in the incidence of obesity, as well as an increase in drug and alcohol abuse, which escalate costs of health care.

3) Approximately 80 percent of health care dollars are spent to care for 10 to 15 percent of our population, much of it for end-of-life care. New technologies and medications, while extending life, drive up costs for everyone.

4) About 43 million Americans lack health insurance, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That number is likely to grow as employers, faced with rising costs, drop health benefits. The uninsured generate higher costs because they usually wait until health problems need emergency care — the most expensive kind. Many have health problems they could get insurance but choose not to, further skewing the numbers toward less healthy, higher-cost people. Pushed by President Bush during his campaign, the impending retirement of the Baby Boom generation — those born in the post-World War II decade. The population over 65 is expected to double by 2030, and the Palo Alto area is at the forefront of this aging trend. Seniors access hospital, physician and long-term care services at far higher rates than do younger people.

Unless preparations are made now, this demographic tidal wave threatens to swamp the Medicare program and overwhelm already strapped medical providers.

Addressing these problems is complicated, not only because of the large numbers involved but also because solutions require sacrifice. As we love all, we would like to give everyone access to the most sophisticated care in the world — at bargain-basement prices. We cannot do both. In preparing our health care system for the future, policymakers, medical providers and the public face difficult questions.

The first hard question is simple. Who pays? Should patients share more of the cost of the care they receive or let someone else pay a larger role? Faced with double-digit increases in health-insurance premiums, many employers are asking workers to pay more of the premiums or higher deductibles and co-payments.

Health savings accounts (HSAs) are an option for patient cost-sharing. Pushed by President Bush during the recent campaign, HSAs allow workers to set aside money into tax-free accounts for health expenses while also purchasing lower-cost, higher-deductible insurance for catastrophic medical needs. HSAs can be offered by employers or purchased by an individual, and are portable between jobs. Increased cost-sharing can help control spending: Patients may be more likely to choose cost-effective options and exercise better preventative care. It can also give patients more control over care they receive. But such measures place a heavy burden on people with chronic illness or low income. And making informed decisions can be difficult — cost and quality data are often confusing and hard to find. On the other extreme, "universal coverage" solutions envision a much larger role for government. For example, law-makers could create a package of "essential benefits" for all citizens, either through employers, individual purchase or the government. A more drastic proposal would create a single-payer system, with everyone enrolled in a government-run plan.

The advantage of a single-payer coverage is obvious: Everyone gets basic care. But there are many disadvantages. In Canada, which has a government-run system, long waits for medical services are customary. Bureaucratic requirements restrict access to expensive — often necessary — specialty care, and decrease the incentive to develop new technologies and medications.

As a society, we would like to give the best care possible to as many people as possible. How much money is being wasted because we mismanage the system? How much money is being wasted because we mismanage the system? How much money is being wasted because we mismanage the system? How much money is being wasted because we mismanage the system?

Second, policymakers and private payers must help offset the growing costs to physicians and hospitals of caring for the uninsured. This might include subsidies to offset how such care is provided, in addition to expanding insurance coverage and revising Medicare.

The American health care system is facing potential crisis, but it is not in free-fall yet. We understand its problems. Though we may differ on how to solve them, we recognize the need for creativity and continued debate.

Can we help meet these challenges? That is ultimately we share a common goal: offering the best care possible to as many people as possible, giving us all the opportunity to live healthy, productive lives.

David Druker, M.D., is president and CEO of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and a longtime Palo Alto area physician. He can be emailed at drukerd@pamf.org.

Letters

(continued from page 23)

All homeowners who have felt the crunch of counting the garage space in their house floor area should contact city staff or a councilmember and ask them to remove this requirement from the zoning ordinance.

Roger Kohler
Wilkie Way
Palo Alto

Mitchell Park mess is a mess

What is going on at Mitchell Park? Almost every year they are digging up the jogging paths and the playgrounds and then they put all of the big machines and the big trucks out over the large sandbox, the trellis and the beautiful wisteria near the large central bathroom.

What can we do now of this mess and little work done except to take up the driveway from East Meadow Drive with a chain fence enclosing that area and then Mulberry and nursery things. This makes it so difficult to drive through.

How much money is being wasted on this continual digging and then repairing? I can’t find out what the cost is.

The flowers planted by the children’s section where boulders were laid down are taking up room for more play equipment, and this was stupid. The flowers died and the children don’t care for that area.

For so much of the year the joggers only have one choice. Why isn’t information posted so we can learn what is going on and how long it will take? Not some formal meaningless incompetence sign posted.

Marilyn Tomsky
East Meadow Drive
Palo Alto

Eichler observations

Eichler issued some deed restrictions when it developed its neighborhoods in Palo Alto. One of them was that it had to have chainlink fencing and no other than one detached single-family dwelling, not to exceed one story in height and a private garage for no more than two cars.

With the proposed new zoning option of two-dwelling-units allowance, will the large number of Eichlers not be affected? What effect will the city’s support in enforcing another of their unique and important covenants?

Mary Carey Schaefer
De Soto Drive
Palo Alto

No building shall be erected, altered, placed or permitted to remain on any lot other than one detached single-family dwelling, not to exceed one story in height and a private garage for no more than two cars.

Above all looms the impending retirement of the Baby Boom generation — those born in the post-World War II decade. The population over 65 is expected to double by 2030, and the Palo Alto area is at the forefront of this aging trend. Seniors access hospital, physician and long-term care services at far higher rates than do younger people.

A second huge question is: How can we provide for the elderly? Current estimates show Medicare will become insolvent around 2019, just as the full force of the Baby Boom wave hits the system. Extending Medicare likely will mean both higher taxes and reduced benefits — politically unattractive ideas. The new prescription drug benefit — though much needed — increases Medicare’s deficit even further.

There are numerous proposals to “fix” Medicare, including raising eligibility above 65. Experts say such a move is only the way to keep America from the reality that people live longer than in the 1960s when Medicare was created.

Beyond Medicare is the question of whether medical providers are prepared to care for a large elderly population, the “age wave” that some call a tsunami. We have in recent years eliminated hospital beds in a shift to outpatient care. But seniors use hospital services at nearly four times the rate of younger people. Will we have enough capacity? Enough physicians, nurses and other caregivers?

These questions need to be confronted now, while we have time to plan. At the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, we have been expanding our facilities and making plans for a new medical campus in San Carlos to provide care to the area with more doctors and hospital beds by the end of this decade — just as the first Baby Boomers begin retiring in 2011. Stanford also is expanding its facilities, as is Sequoia Hospital. These combined efforts will help us meet the Midpeninsula

Letters
ON TRACK INDOORS . . . Menlo School senior Libby Jenke concluded a fine indoor track and field season with a third-place finish in the girls’ 800 meters at the National Scholastic Indoor Championship (NSIC) meet in New York City. Jenke clocked 2:07.68. Jenke received All-American honors in the Indoor 800, as well NSIC Academic All-Americans.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . The 22nd annual Fifty-Plus Lifelong Fitness Weekend came to a conclusion Sunday as the featured event, the Paul Spangler Memorial 8-Kilometer Run, drew some of the top senior distance runners in the nation to Stanford University. Dennis Kurtis, 30:23. In the separate 8K race for runners ages 50 years and older, Shirley Matson of San Jose won the men’s race in 29 minutes flat. Simonne Shellmire, a 5-11 junior, of Menlo College in Stockton on Saturday. Third-seeded Pacific Hills did likewise, winning the Southern California Division V championship game at Delta College in Stockton on Saturday.

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Stanford men facing another tough test

Cardinal open Friday against Mississippi State, but No. 1-seeded Duke likely awaits in second round

by Nathan Kurz

A fter three of the four men’s regional brackets had been unveiled on national television, Stanford had been included in the field of 65. After all the losses to the NBA, to academics, to football and to injury—and the subsequent rescue that accompanied a strong late-season push—was it actually possible that the Cardinal’s tournament streak had ended?

The question wrestled in the mind of junior forward Matt Harty.

“It’s human nature to get nervous,” he said. “They waited to put us in the last bracket, so we had to work a little. It’s like when you take that test and you’re waiting to hear back about your grade.”

It’s quite fitting, actually, that Harty, who chose to think about Selection Sunday as nothing more than a grade on Stanford’s season, for the Cardinal have had to struggle through numerous indignities.

Stanford was ultimately rewarded for its perseverance—and given a B-plus for effort—with an at-large seed in the Austin Region and an 11th straight NCAA tournament berth. Not only Arizona (21), Kansas (16), Kentucky (15) and Cincinnati (14) each have longer such streaks of success, the team had to make this year.

Of course, after the talking-heads on CBS announced that UCLA had been given an 11 seed early in the selection show, Stanford’s place in the field was all but assured. Nonetheless, it was somewhat of a relief for this team to hear its name called and its place in the tournament assured considering the Cardinal’s inauspicious start.

“Back in early January I wasn’t thinking we were going to any tourney,” senior guard Rob Little said. Starting 3-1 in the Pac-10, the Cardinal was a shocker, but we stormed back.

Lingering underneath this tourney appearance streak is an ugly note: Stanford has lost in the second-round game in five of the past six years.

“Thank you everyone on this team and in the Bay Area is thinking about,” Little said.

“Hopefully, it’s something we’ll get past this year.”

Even getting that chance, though, is difficult. Mississippi State boasts last year’s SEC Player of the Year, 6-foot-9, 240-pound Lawrence Roberts. The forward’s transfer is averaging a double-double (16.7 ppg, 10.9 rpg) and resembles both in stature and ability another big man (ASU’s Ike Iwogu) who single-handedly defeated the Cardinal earlier this season.

While the natural inclination of fans alike may be to liken the Bulldogs to SEC peer Alabama—which upset the Cardinal in the second round last year—this analogy doesn’t quite work.

For starters, last year Alabama played the toughest schedule in the country, which meant it had to explain its unspectacular regular-season record and prepare for it to the rigors of the tournament. Mississippi State, however, has only a mediocre strength of schedule in the high 60s and hasn’t beaten a ranked opponent all year.

Secondly, the Bulldogs don’t shoot the three-pointer nearly as well as the Crimson Tide did. Missis- sippian players played a rank near the bottom of the SEC in three-point field goal percentage (.332). The Bulldogs, then, don’t have the same kind of inside-outside threat that helped Alabama march all the way to the Elite Eight.

While the Stanford players have clearly had enough talk about last year’s magical run and sudden exit, there’s one thing that has stuck in everyone’s mind from the heartbreaking Seattle exit. We’re going to need to attack the rack more and be more aggressive,” senior guard Chris Hernandez said. “Last year Alabama shot way more free throws (44 to 11) than we did. We’re going to have to make the adjustment and feel out the officials early. The SEC is more physical than the Pac-10, and so we’re going to have to find a way to go to the line.”

If Stanford is able to find a way to get past the Bulldogs, they’ll have an added bonus for a potential second-round match-up with the Blue Devils: Tim Morris.

As has been noted in several recent national reports, the sophomore swingman should be academically eligible for a possible Sunday game because Stanford’s academic report on Friday, March 11, said he plans to take a P.1. flight to Charlotte on Friday, apart from the rest of the team, which will depart on Wednesday.

Stanford won the only previous meeting with Mississippi State, 76-55, on Dec. 21, 1999, in the Pete Newell Challenge in Oak- land.
Stanford's Dobson runs to an NCAA indoor track title

by Rick Eymer

S

tanford freshman Erica Dobson made a nice splash in her first NCAA national track and field meet, earning two All-American honors at the NCAA Indoor championships this weekend in Fayetteville, Ark.

Dobson, who was named the MVP of the meet, won the women's 5000 meter title with 14:33.46 on Friday. She then won the mile with 4:36.25 on Saturday. Dobson's mile victory, which was her second mile in as many days, allowed her to set a new personal best and make her the only American to win both the 5000 meter and mile titles at the NCAA championships.

Dobson's performances earned her a spot on the Stanford women's track and field team's all-Big Dog team, which recognizes the top performers from the Big Dog conference.

NCAA diving

Gunn grad Ashley Rosenthal and Cassidy Krug each qualified for the NCAA championships after their performances at the NCAA Zone E Meet over the weekend at Oklahoma City Community College.

Krug qualified on Thursday with her third place in the 3-meter event while Rosenthal earned her way into the fourth-place finish in the 1-meter event.

“With a relatively good meet on the springboard and are pleased that both Cassidy Krug and Ashley Rosenthal will be headed to the NCAA Championships,” Stanford coach Rick Schonova said.

Krug and Rosenthal joined 13 swimmers who previously qualified for the championships, which start Thursday at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Swimming

The Sacred Heart Prep boys and girls are 3-0 overall after opening their respective West Catholic Athletic League dual-meet seasons with big victories last week.

The boys swam past visiting Riordan, 123-43, while the girls defeated Sacred Heart Cathedral, 118-28.

The Sacred Heart boys may be even stronger than last season with the addition of freshman Alex Navarro to a lineup that includes sophomore standout Kameron Flores-Maxfield. Navarro produced a school-record 57.91 win in the 100 back, breaking the previous mark of 59.00 set by Pat Norton in 2004.

In the girls’ dual-meet triumph, SHR junior Tiffany Yin eclipsed the school record in the 100 breaststroke with a 1:09.33. The previous mark was 1:10.13 set by Megan Mau in 2004.

The Menlo-Atherton girls opened PAL Bay Division action with a key 82-72 triumph over visiting Menlo last week. Kaitlyn Sitts turned in a fast 25.57 to win the 50 free and added a 55.68 win in the 100 free, in addition to anchoring the 200 medley and 200 free relay teams to victory. Kelly Eaton added victories in the 200 free and 100 back (58.54), and swam on both relays.

The Palo Alto boys and girls opened their respective SCVAL De Anza Division seasons with impressive victories at Monte Vista.

The Palo boys won, 114-71, with a balanced effort while the girls produced a 119-61 triumph as a result of stalwart performances by Emily Lohman who won the 200 IM and 500 free and swam legs on two winning relays. The one relay Friedman did not swim on, the 200 free, clocked the No. 3 time in state. Lohman was joined by her fellow winners Darcy Lan, Cavaliers, Donna Kramer, Tanya Wilcox and Phoebe Champion won 1:40.89 to threaten the 1995 school record of 1:40.10.

PREP ROUNDUP

Paly, Gunn baseball teams hold early league leads

by Keith Peters

The Palo Alto baseball team will have its veteran catcher back in time for the first showdown of the SCVAL De Anza Division baseball season.

Nathan Ford, who has been playing on the Palo basketball team that concluded its 31-2 season with a loss in the NorCal Division II championship game Saturday, is expected to be behind the plate Wednesday when the Vikings (2-0, 4-2) travel to face Los Gatos (2-0) in an early season tussle for the division lead.

Palo Alto’s most recent victory was last Friday, a 12-7 bashing of visiting Los Altos. Kevin Briggs slammed a home run and drove in eight runs while Karl Laughton and Michael Barich put up two of his hits. An eight-run fourth inning blew open the game.

Also off to a solid start is Gunn (3-0, 4-2), which won three games last week after having a full squad for the first time. Sam Zipperstein cut down a runner at home who was trying to steal to preserve a 4-2 lead before Colin Felch provided a cushion by doubling in two runs in the top of the fifth.

While Menlo has yet to begin Peninsula Athletic League action, the Knights have prepared themselves by playing a tough non-league schedule. On Monday, Menlo evened its record at 5-5 by defeating long-time nemesis Pacific Grove in the first round of the NorCal Tournament.

On Monday, the Knights were led by an outstanding defensive performance that turned three double plays, threw a runner out at the plate, and featured a diving catch by outfielder Andy Gregg. Most important was the pitcher’s performance, who needed only 82 pitches to shutout the Breakers. Liu walked none.

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NorCal boys
(continued from page 26)

loss of a remarkably successful season.

“I told them whether we lose in the NorCal or state championship game, it’s still sad when it’s over,” Diepenbrock related. “It’s sad when we don’t get together every day and do what we love to do.”

Then it was the seniors’ turns to talk.

“The seniors expressed themselves,” Diepenbrock said. “They pretty much told the underclassmen to make sure you appreciate this experience of being on the team because it’ll be over before you know it.”

For seniors Brian Baskauskas, Greg Walder, Martin Mouton, Nathan Ford and Amar Miglani, this was their final time wearing a Paly uniform. Most hung their heads on the bench in the final moments as the Vikings found themselves further stressed by a trapping, double-teaming Oak Ridge defense that featured tall and physically imposing players.

“That defense that they played, along with their size (6-9, 6-7, 6-5, 6-4, 6-3) . . . that was a tough thing to overcome,” Diepenbrock said. “I think we were a little tense. We seemed very, very tentative.”

“Playing on the cavernous home court of the NBA’s Sacramento Kings might have had something to do with that, along with Oak Ridge’s defensive pressure that forced Palo Alto into a season-worst 24 turnovers.

The Trojans’ first two baskets came after steals, setting the tone of the game. “Giving them so many easy baskets just killed us,” Diepenbrock said. “We just had too many turnovers and never got a rhythm going.”

Palo Alto shot a season-low .318 from the field and made just seven of 23 three-point attempts. The Vikings got to the free-throw line just once and missed both attempts.

Facing a zone press and a 2-3 zone defense unlike any other this season, Palo Alto had the ball stolen 16 times. The Vikings, who averaged 16.2 steals of their own this season, finished with five.

Baskauskas, who averaged 17 points a game this season, had only one shot attempt in the first quarters as the Vikings got up only seven.

“We just didn’t get up many shots,” Baskauskas said. “I didn’t get up many shots. We really had problems executing our game plan against their defense.”

There was speculation that Palo Alto would have handled Oak Ridge’s pressure better had junior guard Jeremy Lin been available. Not only was Lin’s ballhandling and penetration better, but he also was his team’s point guard that season.

Certainly, had Lin not suffered a fractured ankle a week earlier, Saturday’s game most likely would have been closer.

“It’s so hard to say what would have happened,” Diepenbrock said. “But, he does make us very special against pressing teams.”

Lin will be back next season, along with fellow starters Cooper Miller and Brown. Brad Lehman will move into the starting lineup after taking over when Lin was injured.

“The juniors have a lot of pride,” Diepenbrock said. “They’re definitely going to want to get back here.”

As for the seniors?

“We’ve had a great run,” Diepenbrock said. “We accomplished a lot of our goals. I don’t think there’s anyone here who’s not very, very proud of the season we had.”

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WASHINGTON ST. (56)  
Records: Stanford 18-12, Washington 26-6  
MEN'S DIVING  
NCAA Zone E meet at Oklahoma City  
1-meter - 1, Puhakka (Arizona St.) 644.55; 2, Collar (Arizona 654.00, 3, O'gara (Cal) 625.35.  
3-meter - 1, Puhakka (Arizona State) 612.55; 2, Collar (Arizona 552.65, 3, Hilde (Cal) 625.35.  
60 - 1, Bianca (Ontario) 6.58; 2, Stamer (Nebraska) 6.62; 3, Adu-Bobie (Brown, Chapa, Sebes, Garcia) 9:35.55.  
1, Hicks (Florida A&M) 1:46.97; 2, Hatch (Arkansas) 1:47.40; 3, Kirk (Austin) 1:47.64.  
Mile - 1, Willis (Michigan) 4:00.69; 2, Jefferson (Indiana) 4:01.36, 3, Moyo (Arizona) 4:02.07.  
3,000 - 1, Solsky (Wisconsin) 7:53.59; 2, Kogei (Arkansas) 7:54.45; 3, Tegkenbaum (Wisconsin) 7:55.72, 4, Hall (Stanford) 8:17.31.  
1,600 relay - 1, Florida 3:03.51; 2, Baylor 3:04.72; 3, Northern Iowa 3:04.95.  
Distance medley - 1, Michigan (Ruff, Waithe, Ellerton, Brannen) 9:30.82; 2, UCLA (Schlatt, Varem, Kelati 3), Stanford 34 (Varem 6), Stanford 34 (Varem, Schlat-
ATHERTON... Charming, updated five bed-
room, three and one half bath. New England
Cape Cod home on private, deep one+ acre
lot in desirable west Atherton. Spacious living
and dining rooms, fabulous kitchen and fam-
ily rooms overlooking rear yard. Large guest
house, pool, gorgeous mature gardens, garage
parking for three cars. Convenient central location.

ELIZABETH DASCHBACH $2,695,000

ATHERTON... Wonderful updated four bed-
room, three bath home in excellent west Atherton
cul-de-sac location. Dramatic vaulted ceiling living
and family rooms. Spacious, formal dining room,
fabulous remodeled kitchen with huge informal
dining area. Gorgeous professionally landscaped
gardens featuring expansive lawns, mature shrubs,
species trees and redwood grove. Sparkling pool.
Outstanding Los Altos school. 1+ acre lot, superb for development.

ELIZABETH DASCHBACH/KRISTIN CASHIN $3,995,000

PALO ALTO... Charming classic Spanish style
two bedroom, one and one half bath home in
Professorville. Vaulted ceilings living room
with fireplace and separate dining room. Eat
in kitchen, indoor laundry room and
detached one car garage. Short distance to
downtown and top Palo Alto schools nearby.

PAUL SKRABO $895,000

SAN CARLOS... Exciting, Beautiful, roman-
tic 3 bedroom, 3 bath Mini Tuscan Villa! Gay,
Gorgeous Canyon Views! Luxurious Master Suite! Secluded front garden Theatre!

KT ECKARDT $1,099,950

WOODSIDE... Free bedroom, three and one-
half bath home situated on just over four and
one-half acres. Potential two+ buildable acres.
Easy access to town and 280. Enjoy the char-
acter of the existing home or build new.
Beautiful grounds include panoramic views,
mature trees, swimming pool and rolling lawns. Portola Valley School District.

KRISTIN CASHIN/MICHELLE ENGLERT $528,000

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