

POA NOTEBOOK

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SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

To Promote the Ideals, Policies and Accomplishments of the Association and its Members

VOLUME 30

SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 1998

NUMBER 5

SFPOA Officer of the Month

Officer Dave Letsch

By Rich Struckman,
Northern Station

As POA representative of Northern Station, I was given the difficult task of deciding who would be honored at the April Board of Directors meeting as POA Officer of the Month. When you work at a large station full of hard working cops, it's not an easy thing to do. There are several officers at Northern who are deserving of this award, but only one officer gets it. That Officer is Dave Letsch.

I felt, as many Board Members do, that this award stands for much more than a few good arrests, it stands for a lifetime of achievement. Dave was recognized by his supervisors and peers as a top candidate for this award. His solid work ethic and professional demeanor have earned him the respect of all of his co-workers, supervisors and patrol officers alike.

Dave's law enforcement career dates back to 1968 when he entered the San Francisco Police Departments Cadet Program. Dave, along with guys like Steve Johnson and Tim Hettrich prepared themselves for promising futures in the SFPD. In 1971 Dave entered the San Francisco Police Academy. After graduating from the Academy, Dave spent the next seven years at Taraval station. After seven years at Co. I, Dave transferred to Northern, and never left.

Over the years Dave has seen and done a lot. He has been awarded two Bronze Medals of Valor along with



numerous Captains Comps and letters of appreciation from the public. When I asked Dave about his most rewarding experience over the course of 27 years, He told me it would have to have been spending 17 of those years with his longtime partner Mike Nowlin who now works at Central. Being the long-winded curious type, I tried to get some war stories out of Dave. Dave told me a few which were highlighted by his role in the investi-

(See LETSCH, page 7)

SFPOA Answers the Call Of Walden House

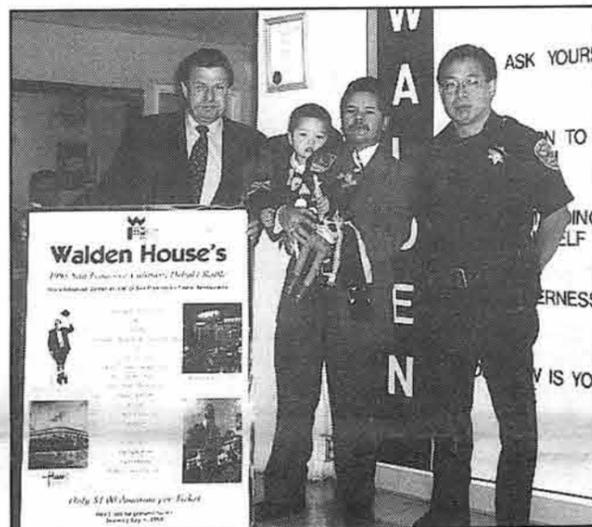
By Chris Canter,
Walden House

Last year, President and Mrs. Clinton addressed the nation and spoke of the importance of high quality child care during the first 3 years of life. In her address entitled "A Better Child for a Better America", Mrs. Clinton described the need for better day care facilities—particularly for low income families who spend up to 24% of their income for child care.

Many substance abusers in our community have young children. Statistics show that by mid-1998, over 600,000 children will have one or both parents in prison or other institution due largely to substance abuse. Worse yet, over half of these kids are predicted to end up just like their parents.

Since June, San Francisco's Walden House has been working on a capital campaign to develop a specialized child care center to address this epidemic. In the wake of Welfare Reform, Walden House, the City's leading non-profit provider of substance abuse treatment, is seeing a tremendous increase in the number of single parents of young children seeking help for their addiction. "There are many addicts in our community with young children," says Dr. Brian Greenberg, the agency's VP/Director of Special Projects. He added, "Far too often addicts refuse to seek help for fear of losing their children. Many times if the individual does reach out, the child is left in an extremely high-risk environment. Providing comprehensive child care services to this population is critical".

The new center, located at 1899 Mission Street, will address the crucial stimulation needs of infant, toddler and pre-school aged children, many of whom were born with distinct addiction-related conditions ranging from poor motor skills to behavioral problems. Walden House President Alfonso Acampora said, "We must stop the cycle. By addressing the needs now, hopefully we can



Left to right: Michael Levinson, Martin and Joshua Carillo and Officer Richard Tong.

increase the odds that these kids will lead healthy productive lives and not experience episodes of teen violence, incarceration or even suicide".

Recently, Mission Station Ofc. Richard Tong visited the developing site and spoke of the "absolute need" for the center. "This will provide a wonderful support system for the kids." Tong said. He reflected on a drug-related arrest he made some 17 years ago of an individual with a 2 year-old child. Years later he found that indeed, sadly though not uncommon, the child had also ended up incarcerated in state prison. Tong attributed this to a lack of a proper support system. Substance abuse hits close to home for Ofc. Tong—his brother was murdered during a narcotics sale.

During his visit, Ofc. Tong met several Walden House participants whose children would benefit from the center. Amongst them was Martin Carillo, a 33 year-old Mexican immigrant and his 28 month-old son Joshua. In recent days, Martin, after completing a Walden House residential program had won a 2 year custody battle for Joshua from his foster home. He said that "in my addiction, had this center been open, I may have sought help earlier because I would have had a safe place for my son." Martin is hoping to soon gain custody of Joshua's 3 siblings. Joshua's mothers' is also an addict whose whereabouts are unknown. Martin hopes soon she too will get help.

(See WALDEN HOUSE, page 7)

POA Mourns Another Fallen Officer

David Chetcuti Is First Millbrae Officer Killed In Line Of Duty

The San Francisco Police Officers' Association mourns the death of Officer David Chetcuti of the Millbrae Police Department. This dedicated officer was killed in a violent gun battle on Saturday, April 25, 1998. Officer Chetcuti has given his life to his duty, and thus performed the ultimate sacrifice for his community.

Our membership extends our sympathy and prayers to his family, as well as to our extended professional family in the Millbrae Police Department.

God bless David Chetcuti, and all those brave men and women who have gone before him in untimely deaths of honor and valor.

— Chris Cunnie, President

Widows and Orphans Aid Association

The regular monthly meeting of the Widows & Orphans Aid Association was called to order by President F. Forenich at 2:05 P.M., Wednesday April 15, 1998 in the conference room, Ingleside Station.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: Tr. Fontana excused. All other Officers present with members R. Crosat, M. Duffy, and J. Sturken.

COMMUNICATIONS: Following donations received and acknowledged by Secretary: POLICE COMMISSIONERS SIDNEY CHAN & EDWARD PETRILLO donation of monthly salaries.

BILLS: Treas. Parenti presented usual bill., benefits, salaries, postage, etc. — APPROVED.

Treas. Parenti reported the following deaths: JOHN DALY - Born in San Francisco in 1921, John was a S.F. Firefighter before transferring into the Police Department in 1956, age 31. From the Academy, John went to Central for a year, Taraval for a year. In 1958 he was transferred to Traffic, Fixed Post detail. After several years, John was assigned to Solo Motorcycles from where he retired on disability in 1976, age 53. He received the following awards: 1957 - 2nd Grade for arrest of armed robbery suspect; 1961 - C/C assisting in arrest of suspects who were members of a robbery and burglary gang; 1962 - 2nd Grade arrest of 2 suspects who were attempting to hold up a loan office. John was 73 at the time of his death.

WILLIAM J. NITTLER: Born in Kado County, Oklahoma in 1906. Bill worked as a packer in a glass factory before joining the Department in 1929 at age 23. He received his training working out of the Night Chief of Police's Office. After this short training, Bill was assigned to radio cars, working out of the Chief's Office. He worked six months at various stations before being assigned to Ingleside station, from where he retired on disability in 1944 at age 38. He received a C/C in 1941 for rescue of people from a burning building. After retirement, Bill had a small gunsmithing shop, repairing and sighting guns for many police officers. He was 91 when he passed away.

JOHN R. MURPHY: Born in San Francisco in 1910, John was employed as a bookkeeper before he became a member of the Department in 1936 at age 26. Another officer who received his training through the Night Chief of Police Office and then was assigned to radio cars. John was eventually assigned to the Bureau of Inspectors from where he retired on disability in 1947 at age 37. He was promoted to Assistant Inspector in 1945. John was 87 at

the time of his death.

GEORGE POHLEY, JR.: Born in San Francisco in 1921, George worked as a dispatcher until he joined the Department in 1949 at age 28. From the Academy to Taraval Station for a year, then to Central Station where he was assigned to the Chinatown Detail. After 6 years, he was transferred to Northern Station for a short stay, then to Ingleside for a year, and again to Central for a year. George was then assigned to the Bureau of Inspectors, Narco Detail, from where he retired on Service in 1976 at age 55. George was promoted to assistant Inspector in 1962, Full Inspector in 1972. He received the following awards: 1951 - a C/C for rescue of people from a burning building; 1959 - C/C for the arrest of 2 armed suspects attempting to rob a restaurant; 1962 - 2nd Grade for the arrest and disarming of a suspect who had robbed a grocery clerk; 1964 - C/C for investigation and arrest of suspect wanted for 6 hot-prowl rapes; 1971 Bronze Medal - for the arrest of a suspect armed with a knife who had already slashed a bicyclist. George was 76 when he passed away.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES: Mr. Abbott (BofA) ECONOMY - Much the same - low inflation. Interest rates also low. First quarter corporate earnings mostly good. This may change as low priced goods from Asia start coming in, as Asian companies need cash flow. **PORTFOLIO:** Earnings compare with S&P. Recommended sale of 6 stocks and the purchase of 4 with the profits, taking a profit and hoping new purchases will perform as ones being sold. APPROVED by the Trustees with one change.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: 2nd reading of new Section #3 to be added to Art. III of the by-laws. Motion Mc Kee/2nd Jeffery that new section should be added. APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Pres. Forenich set the next regular meeting for 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, May 20, 1998 in conference room at Ingleside Station.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M. in memory of the above departed brothers.

Fraternally,
Bob Mc Kee, Secretary

CORRECTION: An incorrect Voicemail number was listed in the Yearly Letter. The correct number is 681-3660.

Please advise of new address or of change in marital status.

'Handicapped' Is The Wrong Word

SF Police Develop Class On People with Disabilities

By Sergeant Forrest Fulton,
SFPD Behavioral Science Unit

The Officers and members of the San Francisco Police Department have developed a new training prototype focused on serving people with disabilities. The class is "Law Enforcement Officers Responding to People with Developmental Disabilities". This new class educates officers in the issues of people with disabilities. The officers are exposed to people, that are attempting to navigate the criminal justice system and who are also dealing with animosity and social apathy.

I love this class about responding to issues on people with disabilities, because it is truly magic. During the three days of lively class interaction, police officers are challenged to view the world through new eyes. During the class officers that are accustomed to fighting crime and wreckage of illegal acts, become exposed to the physical and psychological fight that people with disabilities combat on a daily bases. The magic of the class comes, from seeing the change in hardened and sometimes cynical

street cops, into empowered agents for social, ethical, and human equity.

On the "Beat" most officers are familiar with assessing situations and fashioning practical and fair solutions to life's conflicts. Officers are trained in the police academy to go into chaotic situations and restore peace and order. When law enforcement officers confront the social hypocrisy and unfairness against people with disabilities, the offices want to join the fight.

As police officers we battle crime on routine bases, resolve and focus are our primary tools. When a police officer becomes aware of the needless suffering brought on by ridiculousness and small-mindedness, they target a new adversary, that of ignorance. The training class has been quite successful in battling ignorance and unenlightened animosity.

For more information contact Forrest Fulton at the Behavioral Science Unit.

Deadline for the June issue of the Notebook is Monday, June 1, 1998



Police-Fire Post #456 is on sabbatical

Editorial Policy

The Notebook is the official newspaper of the San Francisco Police Officers' Association and is published to express the policies, the ideals and the accomplishments of the Association. It is the Notebook's editorial policy to allow members to express their individual opinions and concerns within the necessary considerations of legality and space. Submissions that are racist, sexist, and/or unnecessarily inflammatory or offensive will not be published. Contributors must include their names with all submissions but may request that their names not be printed. Anonymously submitted material will not be published. The SFPOA and the Notebook are not responsible for unsolicited material. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions to conform to this policy.

The San Francisco Police Officers' Association

NOTEBOOK

www.sfpoa.org

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- Members or readers submitting letters or articles to the editor are requested to observe these simple rules:
- Address letters to the Editor's Mail Box, 510 7th St., San Francisco, CA 94103.
- Letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address. The name, but not the street address, will be published with the letter.
- Unsigned letters and/or articles will not be used.
- Writers are assured freedom of expression within necessary limits of space and good taste.
- The editor reserves the right to add editor's notes to any article submitted, if necessary.
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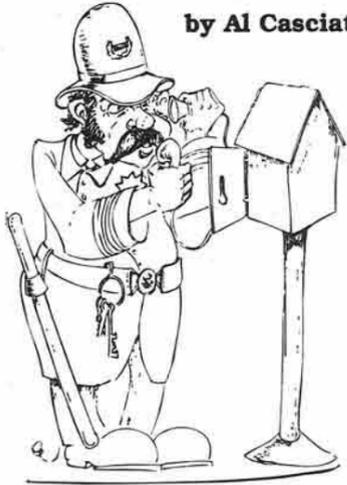
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Around The Department

by Al Casciato



May is the traditional month in which we remember our fallen comrades. This year's ceremonies were met with greater enthusiasm than in past years. Why? It could well be that public sentiment has been communicated to our leaders that Police Officers are respected and revered by the populous at large. This sentiment was brought home by **Ms. Toby Levy** during the memorial ceremony for **Officer Thomas Mandelke** of the Southern Station. Ms. Levy speaking on behalf of the South Park Association stated "...when the newspapers wrote bad stories about the SFPD. We didn't believe them because to us Tom Mandelke was the SFPD." Tom passed away this past month after a long battle with cancer. He is sorely missed on his beat and in his station...

...Chetcuti Memorial Notes:

On the day of the funeral for **Officer David Chetcuti**, the Millbrae Officer killed on April 25th by a heavily armed criminal, a number of stories occurred which involved SFPD Officers:

- The **187th Recruit Class** (without any prompting) collected \$400 for the Chetcuti family fund a true sign that our departments future is in good hands.
- During the procession Officers were moved by the public lining the route. The salutes, tears, expressions of prayer and the presence of Officers' family members evoked many positive emotions and rekindled in many a new sense of pride in the Police Profession...

...Police Memorial:

Much has been reported on the Memorial Ceremony that the POA and City and County hosted for those Officers killed in the line of duty. The reason the event was so successful was that event organizer **Joyce Aldana** was hired by the POA to put together all the details and contact the families. I had the pleasure of

working with her and observing her work. Joyce went well beyond her contract and when asked she summed it up by saying "...it was a labor of love."...

...Press Coverage:

Memorial week press coverage was a little weak by most of the media. Ch. 7 gets an A for coverage; **Pete Giddings** is the son-in-law of retiree **John Mikulin** and reporter **Terilyn Joe** always has a nice aside for the PD which does not go unnoticed. The San Francisco Independent also had excellent coverage and their editor, **Ted Fang**, even attended the memorial service...

...Want a haircut?

On October 24, 1998 the "Crop-a-Cop" foundation will be in San Francisco to raise funds for the Wish Upon a Star Foundation. Last year several SFPD Officers (**René LaPrevotte**, **Phil Fee**, and **Bill Siebert**) traveled to Australia to participate in the "Crop a Cop" fund raiser. The event was so successful that plans were begun to come to San Francisco this year. Well as it sits now it appears that all systems are go and the only thing now are volunteers to be "buzzed". Remember there will be a "Baldy Bash" for all supporter and participants. Let's see if any unit can get 100% participation For more info. www.NBMG.COM/CROPACOP.HTML or request a flier from the POA Office...

Editor's Note: Apparently a copyright dispute has developed over the name "Crop-A-Cop," which shall henceforth be known as "Buzz-The-Fuzz."

...Wedding Bells:

On March 14, 1998, **Sgt. Dean Sorgie** of the Richmond Station married **Catherine McClellan**, daughter of **Officer Dennis McClellan**, of the Mounted Unit, at the Highlands Inn, Carmel, Ca. Just a mere 15 years earlier, Denny was Dean's F.T.O. at the old Northern Station. Denny prides himself that he trained both members of the happy couple. Congratulations to all and our best wishes for future happiness...

...Election Month:

Judge Kevin Ryan is up for re-election this June. Kevin a former DA. Has done a very good job and is endorsed by the POA and a huge cross section of the Community. Even though endorsements are great, votes are the only thing that really count. So get on the phone and make sure that everyone you know gets out the polls. This exercise on behalf of Kevin

will be good training for when we get out the vote in November for the **Tier Two upgrade...**

...Birth:

Southern Station's **Richard and Dolly Seidell** proudly announce the birth of their first child **Evan Lawson Seidell** born March 1, 1998. Evan weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches. Mother and Son are doing well. Proud Dad, Richard, is getting lots of support from his radio car partner **Nelson Ramos Jr.** As he embarks on the adventure of raising a family. Congratulations to all...

...Cinco de Mayo...

Ingleside's **Oscar and Sandra Carcelen** celebrate the 5th of May in a big way. In the Carcelen household it is the birthday of Dad, **Oscar** (5-5-?), daughter, **Erica Agnes** (5-5-90), and lil brother **Armand Tomas** (5-5-97): Talk about timing. Happy birthday to all and many, many more...

...Family News:

Lt. **Bruce and Liane Lorin** (Permits), reports a tremendous amount of family news from Hawaii. Recently the entire family traveled to the Is-

land State for the wedding of daughter **Lorrie Burke**, (Communications) to Officer **Jim Serna** (Taraval Station). Shortly after their return Bruce and Liane were presented with their first grandchild **Matthew Robert Bronson** 6 lbs. 10 oz. born April 13, 1998 to daughter **Patti** and husband **Sean Bronson** brother of **Corporal Mike Bronson** (So. SFPD). Patti is the god daughter of Inspector **Gary Fox** (Burglary). Sons, Uncles, Brothers-in-law, are the Lorin sons, Officers **Gary and Phil** of the Mission Station...

Announcements, notices or tidbits can be faxed to 552-5741 or mailed to Around the Department, 510 - 7th St., S.F. CA 94103.

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POA Bulletin #98-22 — April 28, 1998

Health Service System City Plan 1998-99 Employee +2 Rates

Health Service System costs, as compared to the present fiscal year, are scheduled to rise as of July 1, 1998 in all four (4) plans available to City employees. The largest increases are found in the City Plan; for families, the bi-weekly cost will rise from \$15.41 to \$81.54. This is a 429% increase.

The Health Service Board voted on this increase at its meeting of April 9, 1998. No advance notice was given to City employees nor to their representatives.

I have taken the following action in response to seek explanations for and redress from this 429% increase.

- 1. formally requested a meet and confer session with the Health Service Board to pursue our statutory rights under the Government Code;
2. advanced the regular May meeting of the POA Board of Directors to Tuesday, May 12, 1998 and calendared this rate raise as a special order of business;
3. requested the attendance of our three (3) employee elected Health Service Board Commissioners at this May 12 meeting; and

4. directed POA attorneys Mike Hebel and Vin Harrington to prepare a legal opinion as to all options available to the POA Board to seek redress.

NOTE: The annual open enrollment period for the Health Service System is April 20 to May 22, 1998. While the POA will pursue relief for POA families in the City Plan, we have no guarantee of success.

Recruitment

Dear Colleague:

The San Francisco Police Department anticipates taking applications for its entry level police officer examination from August 28 to September 4, 1998.

To take the test one must be at least 20 years old (there is no maximum age limit) and a bona fide resident of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, or Solano county from the date of application to the date of hire. Employees of the City and County of San Francisco are exempt from this rule, as are residents of the noted counties who are away because of school, military duty, or other valid reasons.

One must have a valid California driver license at the time of application; and may not have more than 3 moving violations in the last 3 years, 2 moving violations in the last two years, or more than 1 moving violation in the last year. One must have no criminal record.

Citizenship and a US high school diploma or an equivalent are required before one may be hired. Starting salary is presently \$40,768 a year.

If you know men or women who want to be San Francisco Police Officers, share the enclosed information with them. If you want applications to distribute during the application week of August 28 to September 4, 1998, write Michael McDonough at the Recruitment and Retention Unit, Room 577-17, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

POA Bulletin #98-14 — March 13, 1998

California Supreme Court's Ventura County Decision

In a unanimous, 7-0 decision rendered on August 14, 1997, the California Supreme Court enlarged and expanded the number and types of items of "compensation" which are used to calculate retirement allowances.

This Association believes that the holding in the case of Ventura County Deputy Sheriff's Association vs. Board of Retirement of Ventura County (16 C. 4th 483) applies to members of the San Francisco Police Department presently in Tier I, Tier II, Tier IIa (buy-out), and the PERS Retirement Systems.

While this holding pertains to the method of calculating final compensation for retirement allowances under the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937, it appears to us that the reasoning used by the court applies directly to calculation of retirement benefits under our charter system as well as the PERS system.

Review of the court's language would clearly indicate that references to final compensation and compensation earnable as found in the City charter would require an expanded calculation of retirement benefits to include more than base salary. Items of compensation, included in the Ventura case, include such items as: uniform allowance, educational incentive pay, motorcycle pay, marksmanship pay, hazardous bonuses, and all other differentials and incentives. All cash payments given for services performed or special skills or qualifications are included in compensation. Excluded from use in retirement calculations were: overtime and lump sum payments upon retirement for accrued and unpaid leaves (sick leave, vacation, and compensatory time off, excepting that earned in the last year of service).

It is the position of the POA that, as of August 14, 1997, the CCSF Retirement System should have included and should now include, for purposes of determination of a retirement allowance, such things as our wellness program, the last year vacation pay, holiday pay, bilingual pay, night differential, like work/like pay compensation for working in a higher rank, and the last year's vaca-

tion and sick pay. These are items of compensation earnable in the last year of service immediately preceding the effective date of retirement and therefore must be included in the calculation of retirement benefits. Overtime earned is specifically, by charter, excluded from consideration.

The Court's decision was silent on whether it will be applied retroactively. The POA believes that retroactive application is required and that under the California Code of Civil Procedure it will be retroactive for three years if a statute is involved, or four years if a contract is involved. Since the retirement provisions are both statutory and contractual in nature, the POA believes that the longer provision (four years) would be applicable when considering its retroactive application.

The Ventura ruling applies directly to all 20 counties covered by the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937. Thirteen of those county retirement boards have voted to make the expanded calculations of retirement benefits; seven others are still working on a strategy for implementation. On February 6, 1998, Orange County became the first to agree to grant pension raises to current workers and to make three years of retroactive payments to retirees.

Lawsuits have already been filed in Sacramento, Contra Costa, and Marin Counties to extend benefits to retirees.

Those counties implementing the Ventura decision are also raising the contributions required to fund retirement benefits. This means that both the employer and the employee will contribute a larger percentage of earnings to fund these expanded retirement benefits. The same result would be applied in San Francisco — expanded and enhanced benefits will require larger contributions.

By letter of February 25, 1998 the POA has urged the Retirement Board to refer this matter to the city attorney's office for an opinion as to the application and implementation of Ventura County to police officers in the SF system.

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President's Message

By Chris Cunnie

Northern Station in Vanguard of Representation

Northern station has traditionally been a POA stronghold, and Northerners have long enjoyed competent and dedicated representation. Now the representation at the Big E is more readily accessible than ever. At the April 21 General Membership meeting I introduced Northern's new team of representatives and stewards, the largest such team in the department.

With the mounting demands for representation and grievance over-tasking even the most conscientious of station reps, veteran POA rep Rich Struckman recruited three fresh faces to help him with the work load, as well as to make it easier to keep night-watch officers informed about the business of the association.

The aggressive and often petty policy of the OCC, coupled with inept and biased investigations, motivated Rich to recruit and train people to help him handle as much of the load as possible. That was a strategic move on Rich's part, and a smart career move on the part of the new stewards.

An active, but diplomatic role in POA affairs often proves to be a positive augmentation to an officer's career. If current management trends continue, labor representation will certainly become ever more important in the future.

Promotional exams already query an applicant's knowledge of employee rights and procedures. MOU negotiations, meet-and-confer issues, disciplinary rights and representation are among those things in which competent police managers need to be well versed and experienced. The best training any officer can have in these critical areas is through hands-on, practical experience performing those tasks as an employee representative.

As a POA rep or steward, an aspir-

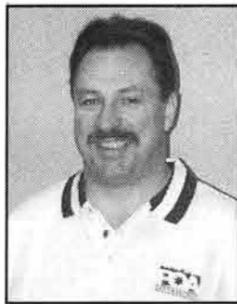
ing promotional candidate will learn first-hand the provisions of the Peace Officers' Bill of Rights, rules and procedures for disciplinary action, the art of negotiation, diplomacy and tact, political strategy, organizational dynamics, and many other subtleties necessary for effective association involvement.

Despite the adversarial posture often associated with POA representation, some of the best known and most respected officers in this department are those who most often sit across the table from department brass on labor and discipline issues.

It is no coincidence that those same people are also among the most respectful, diplomatic, and approachable individuals in the POA, and in the department. POA involvement at this level is worth years of study and learning. It is an invaluable practical experience not gained through classroom study.

Many people currently serving in leadership, investigative, or administrative capacities have distinguished themselves through active participation in the Association. Among those are Deputy Chief Willet; Captains Rick Bruce, Roy Sullivan, John Ehrlich, John Goldberg, and Alex Fagan; Lieutenants Paul Chignell, Al Casciato, Lon Ramlan, Larry Barsetti, Jack Ballantine, and Al Benner; Inspectors Phil Dito, Joe Toomey; Gary Fox, Pete Maloney, and Reno Rapagani; Sergeants Carri Lucas, Cliff Java, Bob Barry, Mary Dunnigan, and Ron Parenti; Officers Jill Connolly, Sherman Ackerson, Mike Keys, Al Trigueiro, and Chuck Limbert.

Let me encourage all members of this Association to become involved in the POA. It is rewarding and often exciting, and is an excellent way to hone your skills in negotiation and protection of employee rights. If any of you are interested in working with us, contact your station or unit rep, or give me a call at the POA office. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

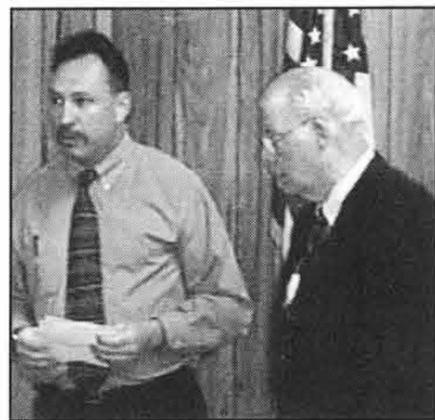


Labor Council Honors Hero Cops

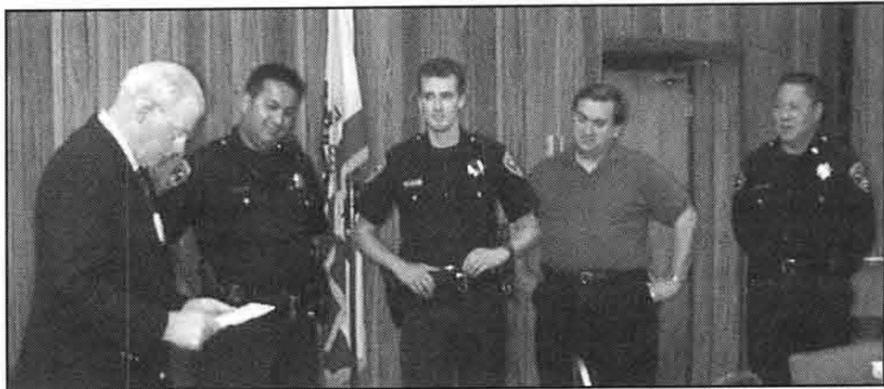
Staff Report

After reading an article in the POA Notebook that described the heroic deeds of three Richmond District officers, SF Labor Council President, Walter Johnson, was moved to present the men with a token of gratitude and support.

The three officers, Arnaldo Aleman, Dan Borgfeldt, and Mark Gallegos, worked in unison to save a drowning man at Land's End last January. For their dedication and effort, they were presented with certificates, and will be the guest of the Labor Council at Scoma's Restaurant. The presentation was made during the April General Membership meeting at the POA office.



Chris Cunnie and Walter Johnson, each highly respectful of the other, both men appreciate the close relationship and support between the POA and SF Labor Council.



From Left, Walter Johnson presents SF Labor Council recognition to Officers Mark Gallegos and Dan Borgfeldt. Co. G POA rep Dean Sorgie accepts on behalf of Arnaldo Aleman. Captain Rich Hom looks on approvingly.

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Northern Station POA Rep team members (From left) Steward Mike Deely, Reps Kathleen Mullins and Rich Struckman, Steward Jason Fox.

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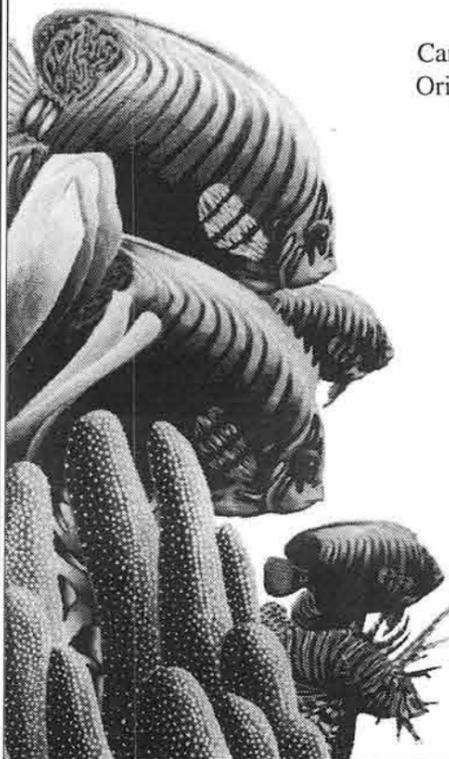
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Health Service System Avoids Disaster

By Mike Hebel, Welfare Officer

By February 1998 the City's Health Plan (Plan 1) was drowning in unpaid claims — more than 70,000 were unpaid. Over 17,000 active and retired city employees are in this plan. In some case their medical claims had remained unpaid for up to 8 months. Members were being taken to collection for unpaid bills and some medical service providers were leaving the system because of the inordinate delays in payment.

City Plan 1, widely considered to be one of the best medical plans available in the United States for public employees, was in crisis and was about to collapse under a growing mound of unpaid bills.

Bold Action by Mayor Brown

On March 2, 1998 Mayor Willie Brown directed the Health Service System to make partial payment on all the 70,000 outstanding medical claim bills. This action was taken to avoid the engulfing crisis. Mayor Brown announced: "We will not tolerate poor service." The Mayor assured that the Health Service System would, within 45 days, reconcile the partial payments with the actual amount due and make necessary additional payments where due. A phone line has been dedicated to the partial payment process (551-9000) and all available staff were assigned to the claims partial payment program.

Many thanks to the Mayor for decisive action to avert the collapse of Plan 1. Members claims (10,000) have been paid in full and provider claims (60,000) have been partially paid.

HRD Chief Promises Permanent Solutions

In a candid meeting with City employee association/union leaders held on March 11 at the San Francisco Labor Council, Department of Human Resources director Andrea Gourdine discussed the causes of the accumulated mound of unpaid medical bills as well as permanent solutions for restoring Plan 1 to fiscal health.

The causes of the mound of bills were: insufficient budgeting and staffing of the Health Service System, employee absences, prior management abdication and collapse, antiquated computer work stations, and an annoying phone system.

The solutions include the hiring of a director of the Health Service System to replace the one fired by HRD in July 1997. In mid April, Ann Sommercamp will join the System as its director. Currently Ms. Sommercamp is working as the director of employee benefits for San Diego County. She has served in that capacity for nearly 10 years. We welcome Ms. Sommercamp. The System has been without a permanent leader for almost one year.

Ms. Gourdine stated that the System now receives about 1,500 claims per day for Plan 1. As of February 23 and thereafter these claims are now being paid within 10 days of receipt. Ten contract claims adjusters were hired to work a night shift to assist with this process. In addition twelve claims adjusters work the day shift.

The 1998-99 budget will contain provisions for additional permanent staff, moneys for a computer stations, and an interactive telephone voice response system. A supplemental budget request for this fiscal year was not sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Gourdine assured all present that there were absolutely no plans to eliminate Plan 1. The open enrollment will not be postponed and will occur between April 20 and May 22, 1998.

POA's Short and Long Term Solutions

In the February issue of the Notebook the POA proposed a 10 point plan for firm and effective action to save Plan 1. That proposal is set forth along with action taken.

1. Actively engage Mayor Brown to bring his considerable political skills to bear on this problem. *Done! Mayor Brown ordered partial payment of the 70,000 unpaid claims and notified all HSS members by letter of his action.*

2. Obtain Board of Supervisor Finance Committee approval for an HSS supplemental appropriation for funds for hiring additional staff to remedy the continuing claims back log. *Done! 10 contract claims adjusters were hired without need for a supplemental budget appropriation.*

3. Urge Local 790 to amend its present MOU to allow, on a temporary basis, the outsourcing of claims work to a private claims company so that the growth in unpaid bill be stopped and payment on the longest outstanding bills be immediately made. *Local 790 did agree to a 90 day, one time, MOU waiver for this emergency purpose.*

4. Require the HSS and the HRD to send to the Board of Supervisors a 1998-99 budget which accurately reflects staff needs and requirements. *Done! This is what Andrea Gourdine has done.*

5. The HSS wang computer system needs replacement, over the next 2 years, with a computer system adequate to the task. *Partially done! The 199899 budget does request moneys for new work stations and a dedicated PC system.*

6. Restore employee morale within the HSS; obtain a permanent general manager possessing the skill and experience necessary to save Plan 1 from extinction. The new general manager must understand the needs of the system and how it works. There is too little time for on the job training. *Done! Ann Sommercamp will become the new director in mid April.*

She is well qualified for this position.

7. Temporarily postpone the April/May 1998 open enrollment period allowing staff to focus its collective efforts on processing unpaid bills (of course, new enrollments must be provided for). *Not necessary. The additional 10 claims adjusters working a second shift have corralled the back log and new claims are being paid with 10 days of receipt.*

8. Institute a second shift of claims handlers. *Done!*

9. Rebuild the HSS membership and claims unit. *A work in process.*

10. Return the workers' compensation program to the Retirement Board. HRD has not proven its ability to handle both HSS and the WCP. *Probably not now necessary with the additional staff hired and the new director to assume her position in mid April. Continued employee organization and HSS Board monitoring is required to ensure that this claims problem never again arises.*

PLAN 1 HAS BEEN RESCUED!!!

Health Service Board

Widely misunderstood is the relationship between the Health Service Board (3 elected employee members) and the Human Resources Department. When this department was created several years ago, by Charter amendment, the Health Service Board lost its authority to control the day to day operations of the Health Service System.

Presently the Health Service Board has two main responsibilities: negotiating health insurance contracts for active/retired City employees and administering the Plan 1 trust moneys.

The Health Service Board has no budget authority nor fiscal oversight. It cannot hire and fire. It cannot compel action, but can merely request action. The Human Resources Department director is appointed by the Mayor and serves at his pleasure. The director has the responsibility for the day to day operations of the Health Service System.

Query: should not the Health Service Board oversee an independent department? The present system does not give sufficient protection to active/retired city employees' health service plans and their administration.

The Health Service Board watched the health service system shut down in August and September 1997 as the number of unpaid claims began its horrendous ascent. The Board gave its counsel and requested action but itself was not able to do take the required steps to stem the hemorrhaging. I acknowledge the efforts of our elected members for their consistent efforts to save Plan 1. Applause goes to Jim Deignan (Police), Harry Paretchan (Fire) and Claire Zvanski (Muni).

Andrea R. Gourdine
Human Resources Director
City and County of San Francisco
44 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Meet and Confer Violation - Increase in Health Insurance Premiums (San Francisco Police Officers Association)

Dear Ms. Gourdine:

This office represents the interests of the San Francisco Police Officers Association in labor-management matters.

The Police Officers' Association has become aware that the Health Service Board recently adopted huge health insurance premium increases for Association members who participate in City Plan I. In particular, for employees with two or more family members there has been an increase of 429 percent in the premium costs. Additionally, we are advised that changes in the co-pay benefits, and the reimbursement for prescription purchases have also been implemented, all with the net effect of substantially increasing the cost to participants.

These exorbitant increases were enacted without any prior notice given to the Association, or an opportunity provided to the Association to meet and confer concerning these increases.

Pursuant to Section 5, "Negotiation Responsibility" of the present MOU between the City and County of San Francisco and the Association, please consider this to be a demand to meet and confer on these changes in health plan premium costs, as well as modifications to the health plan design, including, but not limited to, co-pay amounts, yearly deductibles, and prescription reimbursement provisions. These matters are all "within the scope of representation" within the meaning of Government Code § 3504.5, and as such, are subject to the meet and confer process.

We have also provided a copy of this demand to meet and confer directly upon the Chairperson of the Health Services Board, which as an agency of the City and County of San Francisco, is also obligated to meet and confer in good faith concerning matters within its jurisdiction that would affect wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment. These changes, individually, and in total, have such an impact.

Because this request to meet and confer is pending, it is our judgment that the City should not implement these premium increases until such time as the meet and confer process has been exhausted, up to and including the impasse resolution procedures of the labor agreement, and Charter Section 8.590-1 et seq.

I look forward to your prompt response to this demand to meet and confer.

Sincerely,
Vincent A. Harrington, Jr.
Van Bourg, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld

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Tricks Of The Trade

By Steve Bosshard
FRET/SOD

On Wednesday 4/8/98 while Parole Agent Michael Tang, Deputy Sheriffs David Butler, Oscar Barcena and I were leaving the Westside Projects, we observed a former customer walking on Post St. I recognized him as a former series robbery suspect named Chemista Jacobs. We stopped to renew our acquaintance and Mr. Jacobs stated that we were mistaken, his true name was Lee Hall and presented a property receipt for a mace canister taken from him, as identification. Mr. Hall/Jacobs gave a verbal DOB of 12/07/56 and we ran him with that information.

Lo and behold Mr. Hall had an arrest record from 1989 for eleven separate drug and theft related offenses. We asked for a physical description of Mr. Hall fearing he was using another persons identity and were informed that Mr. Hall was 6 ft tall 195 lbs. The individual we had was 6'5" and he claimed that was a typographical error on our part.

The mystery guest was taken into custody after we had dispatch check him using the name of Chemista Jacobs with the same DOB. Jacobs had an escape warrant from Oakland P.D. and an escape warrant from the Dept. Of Corrections.

We had furnished the mystery guest with his brother's name of Turquail Willis and asked him if his mother was still alive as she had lived at 1939 Ellis St. in the early 80s. The mystery guest hung tough

LETSCH

(continued from page 1)

gation of one of the first zebra killings back in the 70's. Dave also spoke of the Dan White and Rodney King Riots as well as the demonstrations during Americas dealings with the Shaw of Iran and Operation Desert Storm.

Dave is a class guy both on and off the job. Dave has been married for 24 years and is the proud father of two sons. He spends most of his free time with his family, coaching little league and hanging out at home. Dave is a hard working Cop who always shows up for work and never complains. After 27 years on patrol Dave continues to do the job right, he handles his sector and never shags a run. He takes pride in his profession and sets an example for all of us to follow. That is why Dave Letsch is the SF-POA Officer of the Month. Congratulations Dave, you've earned it!

and insisted we had his name wrong, he was Lee Hall and he did not know Chemista Jacobs. Since he wouldn't admit to being the wanted fugitive we made a U-turn several blocks from Richmond Station where we had planned on booking him and responded directly to the Hall of Justice.

We pulled the rap sheets of both Mr. Hall and Mr. Jacobs and noted the photos to be of the same person. We had the ID personnel compare the two sets of prints and again confirmed that they were the same person.

Our investigation revealed that Mr. Jacobs had been arrested for multiple counts of armed robbery in the early 80s and sent to state prison. In 1988 he had placed into a work release program by CDC and Oakland and had promptly fled as soon as he saw daylight. He was arrested in 1989 in San Francisco and of course since he was a wanted escapee gave a fake name. Well his luck held and he slipped through the cracks.

Mr. Jacobs was given a brand new identity thanks to our efforts. A new SF number which happens occasionally, a new CII number which happens very rarely and then lo and behold a New FBI number which I have never seen happen before. Mr. Jacobs smoking of glass crack pipes had so badly scarred his fingers that the quality of prints made proper identification very difficult. He even beat the AFIS system.

Now all of his information is being put together in one rap sheet so that the next poor cop to run into the mystery guest and DA doing a re booking will have all the information. That is AFTER he gets out of State Prison again this time



WALDEN HOUSE

(continued from page 1)

The SFPOA is assisting Walden House in opening the doors of this center. Eventually the center will be a "one-stop shop" providing children's services on the 1st floor, Counseling on the 2nd floor and Vocational Training on the top. The agency still needs \$50,000 dollars to complete the renovation of the bottom level. They have initiated a raffle rightfully named the Walden House Culinary Delight. Tickets are \$1.00 and are available at any Walden House center or at the SF-POA office. With your help, we can make these kids lives a bit brighter.

For more information on the project, call Chris Canter at [415] 554-1100.

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Part 2

Some Of SF's Finest Tread Lively On The 'Old Sod'

By Patrick Burke, Northern Station

On Thursday morning after a hearty breakfast we set off for the land of my birth the great County Cork. Enroute our three Deluxe Coaches traveled through the lush green farmlands and the bustling little towns of dear ol' Ireland, on a beautiful sunny day. We stopped in County Tipperary to view the majestic towers of the Rock of Cashel. The castle is on a huge outcrop with many ecclesiastical ruins which trace the history of Christianity in Ireland. We then continued onward through pleasant green hills and rich farmlands as my excitement increased dramatically at each passing mile as we approached my hometown-Fermoy, which lies on the banks of the Blackwater River famous for the best fresh-water salmon fishing in the world. My dear mother had beaten us down from Dublin (83 yrs. young) to greet me in Fermoy. We met with the Garda in Fermoy and visited their new Police Station. Michael Bartley, photographer for the Avandhu Newspaper, who succeeded me when I left for America, took a photograph of all of us on the bank of the river. Reluctantly we left beautiful Fermoy, all of us vowing to spend more time there next year, with the wonderful and very friendly locals.

Onwards again through our Sister City-Cork, "on the banks of my own lovely Lee," into Blarney where pho-

tographer Terence Field, who was hired by the San Francisco Examiner to photograph our activities in Cork, met us. We climbed the steps of 15th-century Blarney Castle and kissed the famous stone to acquire "the gift of eloquence" i.e. "the gift of the gab." We then visited the Blarney Woolen Mills, a popular shopping haven, with a wide range of quality Irish merchandise and a cozy pub. After putting on our class A uniforms, we convoyed back to Cork City where our whole group were guests of the Lord Mayor of Cork, David McCarthy. As we arrived we observed 10-15 young children role playing Irish football and hurling, the national sports, outside City Hall. We were greeted, on the steps, by a large contingent of City Officials and Garda personnel led by Chief Superintendent Adrian Culligan, who's brother is the Parish Priest in Petaluma, and our organizers in Cork — Bernard O'Shaughnessy and Pat Cleary (Garda). We were then escorted into the Lord Mayor's Chambers where delicious sandwiches and soft drinks were served. The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress then welcomed us very warmly to Cork and made us feel like very honored guests. A musician sitting on a balcony above the chambers played some wonderful Irish tunes especially for us. We exchanged gifts, plaques and proclamations and discussed plans for a Sister City goodwill trip in March

of 1999. The good Lord Mayor rescheduled one of his appointments to stay with us longer and we were very appreciative of his kind hospitality. All 120 of us received a beautiful parchment proclamation from the Lord Mayor. After many photographs we headed back to our hotels and enjoyed a fine dinner. That evening we were hosted at the Cork Garda Club, where Murphy's Brewery provided their fine Stout for our enjoyment. We mingled with many members of the Garda and shared tales of our experiences in police work. Great music, singing and dancing followed and many memorabilia were exchanged. We really enjoyed our sleep when we returned to our hotels.

On Thursday we were up bright and early, enjoyed a great breakfast and headed off for Killarney, through the mountainous country of County Kerry. When we arrived at the Lakes of Killarney, the summer type weather, which we enjoyed for our whole Tour, was so nice we decided to go on a boat trip around the lakes, with the San Francisco flag billowing proudly to the fore. Everyone cheered as the flag was mounted on the forward flagpole. Sergeant Denis Meixner, SFPD, piloted the boat as also did Val Kirwan and Robert Kim. After an incredible boat trip, for that time of the year, we moved on to Muckross House, a stately 19th century mansion set on the shores of Muckross Lake with spectacular mountains rising in the background. Acres of beautiful gardens and lawns sweep down to the lake. The House has 65 rooms containing period furnishings and a museum that houses craft workers who can be observed performing their various trades. A guided tour around the house was very intriguing. Many beautiful items were purchased in the craft shop and after a lovely lunch the group rambled around Killarney Town.

After a really lovely day, in Kerry, we had a sumptuous dinner in our fine hotels, and then headed off to Guinness Hospitality House for a reception there in our honor set up by Chief Superintendent Culligan and his Gardai. Our very gracious hosts treated us to wonderful food and the best Guinness in the world. We exchanged plaques, gifts and memorabilia with our brother police officers and we raised \$600 dollars from our

generous and wonderful group which we presented later to the head nurse at the Bon Sequers hospital to help purchase much needed equipment in the Pediatric Department. Our visit to the hospital, in uniform, was a very joyous occasion for us as we distributed Junior Police Officer and Sheriff's stickers to smiling little children. Afterwards we joined our friends at the Garda Club and sang until the early hours.

Saturday morning after another great Irish breakfast, our group of Ambassadors visited the new Garda Area Headquarters, and observed several ingenious innovations that could be put to good use in San Francisco. It was tough leaving Cork as we swept of in our fine Coaches to beautiful Kilkenny Town, the home of famous Kilkenny Castle- first built in 1192. The castle occupies three sides of a quadrilateral- the fourth of which was destroyed. It has evolved from medieval castle to restoration chateau to Victorian country house. The castle's creeper-clad walls rear above the River Nore and the great drum towers make it look like a mixture of a child's fort and French chateau. The Kilkenny Design Workshops are set beside the castle, housed in the former stables. We drove on through more lush green farmlands and picturesque scenery to County Kildare, prime horse-breeding country, where we visited the National Stud Farm. One stud horse there is insured for 35 million dollars. We saw four one-day-old foals. Who knows they may be future Derby or Cheltenham Gold Cup winners. After lunch we headed back into Dublin to watch the International Rugby Game. That evening we were on the road again to North County Dublin, for a wonderful meal and ballad session, at the historic Abbey Tavern, in the rustic fishing village of Howth.

On Sunday morning, we sadly said good bye to Ireland, but, we were all very happy to have met such wonderful people, enjoyed delicious food, great hotels, beautiful weather, magnificent scenery and experienced the great sense of pride, privilege and honor of being the first to represent our great City of San Francisco, in such a professional and dignified manner, at the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Ireland. Our warm memories will live on with us forever.

The
San Francisco Giants
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the Officers of
the S.F.P.O.A.
for all of
their hard work!



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CyberNews

By Glenn Sylvester

Anonymous Remailers

From last month's article on cookies. To cover your tracks, delete your COOKIE file. This can be somewhat time consuming and monotonous, but you can do this when you feel the need. In Windows 95, right click on the START button, choose FIND, in the file box, type in COOKIES.TXT, in the Look In box, put in C:\. OR choose browse and select each drive until COOKIES.TXT is found. Your system may be configured differently, but you will find it. Right Click on COOKIES.TXT and choose DELETE. Make sure you don't delete the folder called COOKIES. You are all done. If you are really paranoid, you must do this every time you end your "surfing" session. Or try configuring your browser "not to accept cookies". This can be a real pain as some sites may not let you on if this option is turned off. There are utilities out there that will do this for you, and you can find them on the NET. For more information on cookies, try these sites: <http://www.drtravel.com/COOKIES.html> <http://www.13x.com/cgi-bin/cdt/snoop.pl> While you are at it, using the FIND method about, take a look at your Fat.db file. Interesting?

Many have asked, how can I send mail without divulging my true email address. Or perhaps you want to organize your responses based on what you are doing. I.e: Personal e-mail and work e-mail. This makes for a long topic and debate. One way this can be done is check with your ISP and find out if you can create additional accounts. At this time, I know Netcom allows this feature based on the type of plan that you have. Those



utilizing AOL can have up to five (5) different accounts (screen names). In these two cases, you would not be redirecting your mail as you are receiving mail to the specific e-mail boxes you created on your ISP.

What about being totally anonymous? An anonymous server is a way to go. You log on to the server, enter information and you are assigned an e-mail address. You can now post messages on this server that is sent out and the receiving parties can not find your true e-mail or identity. This is a little confusing to set up at first, but it does work. What if the Server is located in another country? Imagine trying to get a search warrant. I won't go into this method any further, I'll leave this up to those who can find the anonymous remailers.

Another method requires that you have an ISP. Most people utilize this method because it is the easiest to set up. Upon logging onto the Internet, you go to a website and retrieve your mail. All mail sent and received resides on this server and it doesn't cost a penny. You are advised not to SPAM, but no one follows the rules. Ever received mail from an individual from Hotmail.com? There are many of them out there.

Here are a few sites:
<http://www.hotmail.com> <http://www.mailexcite.com/>
 Next month, Mail Forwarding, Chat Glenn R. Sylvester, DSC glennsylv@pacbell.net, glennsylv@aol.com <http://members.aol.com/glennsylv/glennsylv.htm>

Yellow Rain Capes For Sale

The following story is an excerpt from the soon-to-be-published book of true police anecdotes titled, "True Stories That Cops Tell To One Another" written by retired SFPD member Tom Dempsey.

In the April Issue of the Notebook was printed an excerpt titled "Traffic Congestion." That tale was about Officer Dick Crawford.

— Editor

An order came down from the Chief's office that everyone on patrol had to purchase a yellow rain cape that was to be worn over the blue uniform. It was common knowledge that a uniform clothing store had a huge surplus of yellow rain capes.

The order read that on such and such a date the watch commander would hold inspection to determine that everyone complied with the order.

The watch commander was a gruff disciplinarian type, no nonsense, etc.

When it was time to call the roll and determine if everyone complied,

the officers' names alphabetically. When he called the first name, the officer held up the cape. The watch commander then called off the second name and he in turn held up the cape.

In the meantime, the first officer passed the yellow cape to officer number three, and officer number two passed the officer number four, and so on down the line. Just as the watch commander was almost finished calling all the names, he observed the yellow cape being passed back to another officer. He stopped, stared at everyone. There was complete silence. The watch commander then realized that in the lineup only two yellow capes had been purchased.

Everyone in the lineup thought they were really going to catch hell.

The watch commander stared and stared, and finally smiled and said, "Before you break ranks I want you to put on your capes and line up for a group inspection. I will bring out the captain and he will review all the ranks — capes and all."

"Crop-A-Cop" Becomes "Buzz The Fuzz" And Takes Off!

By Phil Fee, Park Station

The 1998 "Buzz The Fuzz" campaign is underway and is gaining the support of numerous law enforcement agencies and community groups. For those of you asking, "what's Buzz The Fuzz"; it's a group of cops getting together to raise money by shaving their heads to let kids with cancer know that they don't have to be embarrassed about their appearance. we want the kids to know that we admire their courage and that we are there to help.

The Buzz The Fuzz coordinators have selected the "Wish Upon a Star Foundation" to be the main beneficiary of the funds raised from our 1998 main event. We are currently signing up participants for the main event, which is scheduled for October 24, 1998.

Northern Station leads the pack with over thirty members signed and willing to loose their locks for a good cause. Below is a list of station organizers from which you can obtain event information and the participant agreement forms.

- Co. C Danny Manning, Kevin Labanoski
- Co. D Pete Richardson, John Geraty, Mike Flynn
- Co. E Dave Hamilton, Steve Murphy, Rob Ziegler
- Co. F Mike Siebert, Phil Fee, Pierre Martinez
- Co. G Tim Foley
- Co. H Jean Etcheveste
- Co. I Brian Nannery, Ted Mullin
- Co. J Harrold Vance, Bill Bush
- T.A.C. Mike Favetti, Mark Soloman
- Hondas Dave Fontana
- Traffic Rene LaPrevotte
- Narc Kurt Bruneman, Gary Delanes
- H.O.J. Joe McFadden, (D.V.U.) Ronan Shouldice (C.S.U.)
- Sheriff's Mark Morrison
- Dept. Jim Mullan

With your help, "Buzz The Fuzz 98" will be a huge success for everyone involved.

Check us out on the world wide web at: www.nbm.com/buzzthefuzz.html

Note: due to copyright liability, the name Crop-a-Cop must be dropped from our organization to be replaced with "Buzz the Fuzz".

- Co. A Michael Cleary, Mark Alvarez
- Co. B Kevin Martin

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Right Here In River City

By Bill Hemby, COPS

The June Primary

There's a June primary election just around the corner — the first open primary in California history, and this November we'll select a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Constitutional Officers, Congressional Representatives, a bevy of Assembly members, Senators, judges, city council persons, Board of Supervisors, and a few dog catchers as well.

And, least we forget, we have to contend with ballot measures — one of which should interest each of you.

By far the most damaging of the ballot initiatives is Prop 226. On its surface, Prop 226 has a lot of appeal to [Association] members and public employees. You can stop the SFPOA from spending any of your hard earned pay for political fund-raisers — especially if your politics don't agree with the politician in line for the donation.

But remember this. As a public employee your career, your liveli-

hood, depends upon benefits granted you by those same politicians.

The SFPOA is competing with big business who spend 10 times what public employee groups spend on political fund-raisers and political campaigns. Taxpayer groups, the Chamber of Commerce, and big business don't contribute because of altruistic tendencies. They contribute to keep their corporate taxes down — to inch up the profit margin.

As public employees, every benefit you earn, every salary dollar you earn, comes from taxes — no way around it. So, the corporate types spend 10 times what public employee groups spend just to keep benefits down, and keep wages low. Their idea of time and one half is, you work the time — for half the pay!

There is another loop-hole in Prop 226 — and this can affect you and your family's safety. Prop 226 requires each employee to fill out and sign a form that will list your name, financial contribution, and probably home address, phone number, and Social Security number. That information then becomes a matter of public record, open for any criminal to get his hands on.

Think about it!

VOTE NO ON PROP 226

Prop 226 silences working families.

Prop 226 imposes a whole new bureaucracy on unions. Your union will be hog-tied, ham-strung, and buried in new red tape and bureaucratic restrictions. Your union will be filling out forms instead of fighting for the things working people care about — a decent wage, safe workplace, health benefits, and fair retirement.

Prop 226 violates a worker's right to confidentiality.

Prop 226 forces workers to report their political activity to their employer! Employers should not be

keeping political activity records and files on their employees.

Prop 226 is unfair.

Prop 226 only restricts unions. It means more power to big business, and less to working people. Big corporations already outspend unions 11 to 1.

THE BACKERS OF PROP 226 WANT TO DESTROY YOUR ASSOCIATION, DISMANTLE SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

VOTE NO ON PROP 226 IN JUNE

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Hartford Life

POA donates to youth programs

Excelsior Beat Officer Helps YMCA 'Gear Up' After Burglary

Notebook Staff Report

One day in February, Ingleside Officer Robin Matthews was reviewing police reports prior to going out and walking her Excelsior District footbeat. She happened upon a burglary report that particularly caught her eye. There had been a break-in at the Excelsior YMCA at 4080 Mission Street and all of the organization's camping and sports equipment had been stolen.

Officer Matthews dropped by the "Y" that day to follow-up on the incident, and to offer any assistance she could. While talking with the staff she learned that all of the stolen equipment was brand new and had only recently been purchased for the upcoming summer youth activities. The "Y" receives the majority of their funding from donations and, with summer fast approaching, the staff was unsure they would be able to replace the necessary equipment, thus jeopardizing the entire summer sports and camping programs.

Officer Matthews was concerned by their predicament, as the Excelsior YMCA is one of the few, long-standing organizations that actively work with kids in the Excelsior. An experienced beat officer, Matthews appreciates any organization that has programs for the district youth, keeping them active in positive ways instead of just hanging out. The "Y" provides day care services, after school programs, and summer programs for kids of all ages; and she wanted to do something to help.

Officer Matthews contacted Steve Johnson, Secretary of the San Francisco Police Officers' Association, and asked him if he knew of anyone who might be able to help in either obtaining funds or donating replacement equipment for the "Y". Steve referred her to Inspector Bob Huegle, Chairperson of the SFPOA Community Services Committee. The Committee has existed for over forty-five years, and obtains its funding by donations from P.O.A. members. When a needy cause arises, requests for funds are made to the Committee, and each case is reviewed and checks issued, as deemed appropriate.

Officer Matthews then contacted Inspector Huegle, who told her to submit a request in writing to him with a brief explanation of what had occurred, and he would present the matter for consideration at the next Committee meeting. A couple of weeks later, Huegle called Officer Matthews with some good news. The Committee had approved a check for the YMCA for \$200.00! She had the check



Officer Robin Matthews

in her hand the very next day.

Officer Matthews then contacted Andrew Scott, Executive Director at the YMCA, and told him the good news. She had remained in contact with Mr. Scott, and he was aware that she was working very hard to find funding for them to replace their stolen equipment.

Andrew Scott was thrilled with the news, and praised Officer Matthews for going the extra mile on behalf of the "Y" and the youth it serves. Andrew then suggested that a special check presentation be held, as he wanted to be able to give some acknowledgment and recognition to the police department and the P.O.A. for the effort that was made to help out his organization.

Director Scott wrote a letter to Chief Lau, and arrangements were made for a check presentation in the Chief's office on April 15th. Director Scott brought five children from the "Y" to the presentation — Hector Nieto, Yazmin Lorencillo, Tramain Williams, Stacey Swain-Campos, and Joseph Urutia — which was a wonderful way to remind everyone who the money was going to benefit. Channel 5, Channel 48, and the San Francisco Chronicle were there to document the event. Chief Lau gave each of the children an S.F.P.D. patch and his business card as mementos.

Although the \$200.00 check was a nice start for the "Y", additional funds are still needed to ensure that the stolen equipment can be replaced and the children's summer programs can continue. Checks can be sent directly to Andrew Scott at the Excelsior YMCA at 4080 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112, or they can be sent to Officer Robin Matthews at Ingleside Station, and she'll ensure that they get to Director Scott. Please help in this worthy cause.

Pepper spray fails on drugged combatant

Ocean View Melee Leaves Officers Injured

Notebook Staff Report

A resident of the Ocean View district, who often boasted to friends and neighbors that he wanted to "fight cops," had his wish realized in a violent street melee with several officers from Taraval Station. The police officers had responded to a call for help from a local school teacher whom the man had bullied as she made her way into Jose Ortega elementary school. The confrontation, and subsequent arrest, took

The chemical had little deterrent effect — an indication that he was high on drugs. But rather than give up to the officers, he wheeled and began to flee. Officer Limbert attempted to take the suspect into custody, but the resistance offered was rageful and violent and exacerbated by the drugged mind-set of the offender. Limbert soon found himself rolling on the ground with the suspect, fending off blows, and struggling to retain control of his holstered gun, which the suspect was trying to

Limbert soon found himself rolling on the ground with the suspect, fending off blows, and struggling to retain control of his holstered gun, which the suspect was trying to seize.

place on the morning of April 15th at the intersection of Victoria and Sargent Streets. Although the combatant was eventually cuffed and jailed, it is not clear who actually won the fight, considering that several officers were seriously injured by the drugged and crazed suspect.

Standing 6'2" and weighing 200 pounds, the suspect attempted to strong-arm the hapless teacher, who fled from the aggressive man and phoned police. In a matter of moments, several Taraval Station officers arrived on the scene and the incident unfolded, one would gather, just as the suspect had always hoped it would.

Officer Chuck Limbert was the first to arrive, and he quickly determined that the suspect was a babbling time-bomb on the brink of detonation. Still, Limbert tried to calm the man, but his words failed. The man faced-off against Limbert, fists clenched, and postured himself for the inevitable fray. "You're not taking me," he declared convincingly.

Arriving in time to observe the suspect moving in on Limbert, back-up officer Cynthia Ogle called for more assistance. It was apparent to her that a physical confrontation was quickly making itself out as the only practical option available to the officers. The man could not be talked down, and he refused to heed orders to kneel and surrender.

Officer Limbert removed his canister of pepper spray and pointed it at the approaching suspect. Despite more verbal warnings and orders to desist, the suspect continued to come at the officer. Limbert let go with a burst of the repellent, spraying him directly.

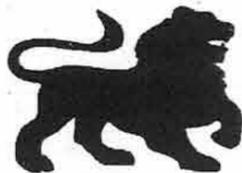
seize. "I'm going to kill you!", the suspect screamed, "You're not taking me. Nothing can hurt me."

Officer Ogle helped wrestle one cuff around the wrist of the suspect, all the while enduring repeated blows to her face and head. Limbert was also battered, and was spit upon by the suspect, who bled profusely from injuries to his mouth. The suspect broke loose, and Limbert let fly with a second spurt of pepper spray. That, too, failed to take the fight out of the suspect.

Nor did the arrival of Sergeant Ralph Domer and Officer Lewis Fong put an end to the struggle. In fact, the suspect became more enraged and combative, striking the four officers repeatedly, seemingly impervious to the counter-blows they delivered upon him. Officer Fong took a punch to the side of his head that nearly knocked him unconscious. Sgt. Domer was struck with many blows about the head and face. Two more officers arrived, Kyle Ching and Vezosa, and the suspect was finally subdued and restrained with handcuffs. In the end, it proved to be the sheer numbers of officers that overcame the drug-induced stamina of the suspect.

The case was immediately passed along to Inspector Peralde of the General Work detail for rebooking and follow-up. As it turned out, the suspect was booked only three weeks earlier on another charge of assault on a police officer. Officer Limbert and Ogle sustained serious injuries, but none of the responding officers went without suffering a punch or a blow by the man who had always wanted to "fight cops."

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