

POA NOTEBOOK

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 31

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NUMBER 9

POA supports crucial ballot measure

Rebuild/Modernize Laguna Honda Hospital

San Francisco's most needy and deserving must be provided a first-class long-term medical facility

Notebook Staff Report

For over a century Laguna Honda Hospital has been a central feature of San Francisco life, much like the cable cars or the Golden Gate Bridge. For generations, Laguna Honda has provided skilled nursing care to San Francisco's elderly and people with disabilities of all ages in an environment of love and community.

As one of the nation's most renowned nursing facilities, Laguna Honda over the years has drawn famous entertainers such as Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, among others, to perform at its special holiday celebrations.

Since many of Laguna Honda's patients receive care over extended periods of time, the patients, their families and the hospital's medical staff merge into a community. Laguna Honda is more than a hospital — it's home to over 1,000 San Franciscans who require 24-hour care to live their lives in comfort and dignity.

Included among the Laguna Honda community are San Franciscans from all walks of life, and from all personal circumstances. Retired public servants, including police officers and fire fighters, or the parents of current City employees, call Laguna Honda home. In addition, adults and children disabled or paralyzed in accidents, as well as people with AIDS and other chronic illnesses all receive quality medical care appropriate to their needs.

Laguna Honda's nurses and doctors work as a close-knit team, whether providing acute care in a medical crisis or leading patients in recreational physical therapy sessions. Another essential element of the care-giving team are the hundreds of volunteers who attend to the personal needs of Laguna Honda residents. Whether assisting medical staff, serving meals, conducting arts, crafts and musical activities, taking residents for walks around the grounds, the volunteers contribute to the strong sense of family that allows Laguna Honda residents truly

feel at home.

However, all the warm, supportive human interaction can't overcome totally the reality that most of Laguna Honda's antiquated physical facilities need replacement. The buildings, many of which are sixty to ninety years old, do not meet modern standards required by the state and federal funding sources that pay most of the hospital's operating expenses.



Laguna Honda has been granted waivers for over a decade, in large part because the superior quality of personal care and human interaction between residents and staff compensate for the outdated and inadequate physical facilities.

But time has run out, and the San Francisco faces the very real threat that Laguna Honda will be forced to close in the near future, unless it is rebuilt to meet modern seismic safety and long-term medical care requirements. For over a decade numerous studies have been done to consider the most cost-effective, medically sound and humane alternatives to continue fulfilling Laguna Honda's unique role in San Francisco's community and family life.

Especially in light of the aging baby boomer generation, and the shortage of skilled nursing beds in San Francisco the need for Laguna Honda's services will be even more acute in the future. In the short term, a forced closure of Laguna Honda

(see LAGUNA HONDA, page 10)

President's Message

By Chris Cunnie
SFPOA President

Things have been quiet at the POA this summer. Most of our 3-stripe members are studying for the up-coming Lieutenant exam. Many others of you are squeezing a couple of extra vacation days in before school starts. The Department's Y2K plans are coming together. Things are pretty much status quo — except for one major issue: Our crumbling Health Service System.

Fortunately for the POA, we have Mike Hebel as our Welfare Officer, and Steve Johnson as our executive secretary. Mike and Steve are closely monitoring the happenings at the Human Resources Department in regards to the fix for skyrocketing health care costs to our active and retired members.

Mike has written an excellent update and status report on City Plan I and the other HMO options. This is one of the most pressing problems we are facing as an association, and it is important for all of you to read this piece and understand how it pertains to your own situation.

I want to thank Mike and Steve for their hard work and diligence. All of us on the Board realize that this is a major concern to nearly all of you, and it will be addressed and remedied to the best of our ability.

On another note, you'll see that we are running an article supporting the rebuilding and modernization of Laguna Honda Hospital on the front page. While this issue does not directly effect the Association, many of the personal lives of our members and their families are linked to this unique and much needed care facility. I hope you will also take a moment to read about the hospital, whom it serves, and what is planned for its future. I think you will agree with me that it is important to all of us to have a first-rate care facility for some of the most needy of all San Franciscans.



12,296 Flee The City Health Plan

By Mike Hebel,
Welfare Officer

On July 1, 1999 the City's Health Plan, commonly known as Plan 1, suddenly had 12,296 fewer enrolled persons (active, retired, dependents). Of those leaving 10,128 were active City employees and their family members; 2,168 retired employees and their family members left the City Plan. Of the 99,422 Health Plan enrollees (active, retired, dependents), only 14,573 remain in the City Health Plan. This plan, once called the Cadillac of California health plans, has now fallen from its former place of glory.

Plan totals as of July 15, 1999 are:

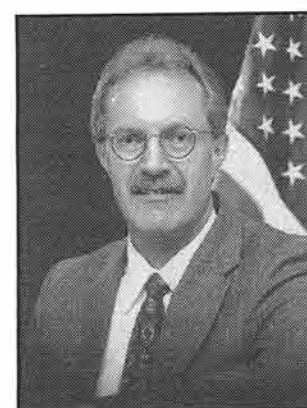
Kaiser	42,204
HealthNet	36,124
City Plan 1	4,573
Pacificare	7,516

Over 65% of those leaving the City Plan enrolled in HealthNet. The rest went to mainly to Pacificare. Kaiser enrollment remained stable.

Health Service System

The Health Service System was established in 1937 because of a need for adequate health protection for city employees, and as a remedy for the financial loss attendant upon sickness and injury. The excellence of the City's Health Service System for its active and retired employees and their dependents was once a model copied by such cities as Sacramento and Washington, DC. It has now become a model of a "death spiraling" system.

The causes of the demise of the City's health plan are numerous, including: lack of adequate funding; outmoded personnel systems; inad-



(see 12,296 FLEE, page 18)

Widows and Orphans Aid Association

The regular meeting of the Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association of the San Francisco Police Department was called to order by President William Hardeman at 2 PM in the conference room of Ingleside Station.

President Hardeman led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS; All present with Trustee Jeffery and Vice President Garrity excused. Also attending was past President and Secretary Bob McKee.

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP AND SUSPENSIONS; New Members Robert Tayac and Keith Pasquinzo.

Suspended under Article III, Section 3 of the by-laws by President Hardeman: Brian Mank, Eddie Simlin, Christopher DaRosa, Marcio Quintana, and Mark Robertson. Also William Whitfield under Article III, Section 4 William Whitfield. And per written request Michael Renteria.

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING. Motion by Crosat, Seconded by Fontana Motion Carried

BILLS: Treasurer Sturken presented the usual bills. Motion Kurpinsky, Second McKee the bill be paid. Motion Carried.

Two deaths were reported during the past month.

ROBERT J. DILLION 63 years of age. Bob was born in San Francisco and grew up in the outer Mission. He attended Sacred Heart High School and then saw military action in the Army. Following his discharge he returned to San Francisco and worked as a Warehouseman before entering the Police Academy in 1958. His first assignment saw him at Mission Station. He then was assigned to Internal Affairs for a short period before returning to Mission. He then as a new Sgt. made the Big Lights of Central before making his final trans-

fer to Taraval. Bob was awarded several Captain Comps. for arresting Burglary suspects and recovering stolen Autos.

RENE DEL CARLO 76 years of age. Rene was born in San Francisco and grew up in North Beach. He attended Mission High School before entering the Army. Upon his discharge he returned to San Francisco and was employed as a truck driver before entering the Police Academy in 1947. His first assignment saw him going to The Potrero where he stayed for a couple of years before being assigned to Traffic three wheelers. Well, I guess he found his home and stayed for over twenty years. Before making Sgt. and working his last year at Potrero, Rene was awarded a Silver Medal of Valor for his arrest of two suspects who held up a loan company. He was also awarded several Captain Commendations for arresting several suspects in various hold-ups in the downtown area. He was very mobile on his three wheeler and with his fellow officers on the bikes were generally the first on the scene.

NEW BUSINESS; Amendment to Dec. 16, 1998 meeting. Kent Voorhies, designated beneficiary of Joseph Fabrizio, deceased in Oct. 1998 \$15,006.00.

Donation of \$150.00 from Steve Gikeath Television for an episode of the "Dumbest Crook" the story was provide by Stan Buskovich.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES. The Bank of America will have a special meeting with the Trustees At 6 PM on Thursday August 26, 1999. They reported that our account is valued at \$9,289,338. The Revision Committee for the Bylaws will meet in the next few weeks.

ADJOURNMENT: Their being no further business to come before the membership. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM in memory of our departed members. President Hardeman set the next meeting for Wednesday September 15, 1999.

Fraternally,
Mark Hurley, Secretary

Meet Mayor Willie Brown

The Biggest Fan of San Francisco Police Officers in all of City Government

Join actor **Don Johnson** of the hit television series "Nash Bridges," comedian **Bob Sarlotte**, and former **49'er greats** at a reception for **Willie Brown** hosted by the **San Francisco Police Officers' Association**.

Show Mayor Brown that you appreciate his support for you and your family during the last 3½ years, and that you look forward to working with him for a second term in office. We will be accepting commitments from volunteers who wish to work on the campaign, as well as accepting voluntary donations to help off-set campaign expenses.

When? Monday, September 20, 1999, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Where? Julie's Supper Club, 1123 Folsom Street,
just 1½ blocks from the Hall of Justice

Hosted Beer, Wine, and Hors d'oeuvres

A No-host bar is also available

Come out and show your support for the Mayor and for the Association. **Remember, there are at least 11½ reasons why you should support the re-election of Mayor Willie L. Brown.**

1. He supported Prop A up-grade for the Tier II pension plan, and has now committed support to the up-grade for Tier I buy-out members
2. He committed to full staffing of the police department and a vigorous recruitment program
3. He committed to full-staffing of the Inspector's Bureau and authorized 140 first day Inspector appointments
4. He delivered on his promise to merge the SFO Police with the SFPD
5. He authorized the construction of a new TTF building, including parking for officer's cars
6. He mandated that the SFPD Traffic Company return to the use of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, the only union-made motorcycle in the United States
7. He authorized and approved full budget expenditures for staffing and equipment for each year of his administration
8. He credits the good work of SFPD officers for a 40% decrease in crime during his first term
9. He supports vigorous drug enforcement and vice operations, including seizure of vehicles of arrested suspects
10. He has mandated open communication between police department management and the various labor organizations
11. He has been the most supportive mayor in recent history, constantly praising the hard work and dedication of San Francisco police officers in the media and at public meetings
- 11½. He is only half way through his tenure as the Mayor of this city.

Be There!!!

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

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- 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.
- Articles should be typed, double-spaced.

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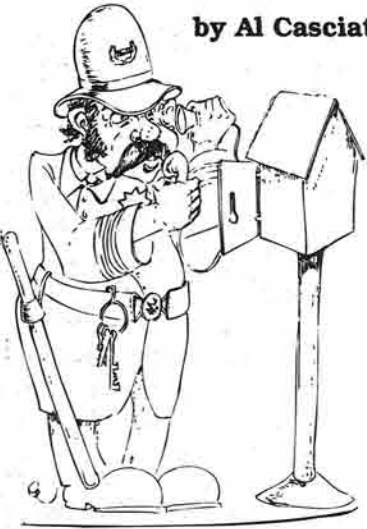
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Around The Department

by Al Casciato



...Call him LUCKY:

Retiree, **Charlie Honeish** attended the POA Golf Tournament August 16th, at the Olympic Club. A \$20 purchase of raffle tickets netted him the following prizes; one Orlimar driver, and the following gift certificates — \$240 at Fior di Italia, \$80 at Julie's Supper Club and \$80 at LuLu's Restaurant. Time to play the lotto...

...Web Site:

www.officer.com offers a list of law enforcement employment opportunities, both sworn and civilian. **Glenn Sylvester** has started a web site on tech crime <http://techcrime.com>.

...No Social Security:

The current negotiations being held with the City regarding the Health Service System debacle must be monitored very carefully. The representatives and lawyers for both sides **tend to forget that many City employees and retirees do not belong to the Social Security System.** Keep an eye on any proposal surfaces and make sure that all the bases are covered.

...Lesson in Humility:

On Friday, August 13, 1999, fifty-two members and guests of the S.F. Police Golf Club received a lesson in humility. All but four of the active and retired golfers were beaten at Bennett Valley Golf Course by a "nine year old" **Dennis Carson**, the grandson of retiree **Roger and Reine Foge**. Dennis played a real solid round of golf shooting a 40 on the front nine, and 41 on the back, for a very consistent 81. Club President Retiree, **Jerry Cassidy**, had the privilege of playing with Dennis so he had the opportunity to observe Dennis' performance first hand. According to Jerry, the young man missed only two shots and did not display any weakness in his game. He doesn't hit the ball as long as his grandfather and he did beat Jerry. By how many strokes will remain top secret...

...Y2K:

All the hype about Y2K is and has been creating a great deal of anxiety. If you are really worried about Y2K just turn off your electricity for about 2 hours and see how you would operate without power. Recently, the Credit Union lost power to their computers and had to write checks manually on typewriters. Y2K is no different from any major power outage.

...Radios:

The delays in opening the new 911 center indicate that the probability

of its future operation being efficient and safe do not bode well. Officers in the field are using many unsafe pic radios. Administrators claim that the new radios are being delayed because the 911 system is not up to speed. I guess **we are going to have to have an officer injured or killed** because of radio failure before the funds are released to upgrade the pics. What do I know except that I have to carry three batteries because they can only hold a charge for a couple of hours, and most of the time I can copy HQ but they can't copy me. "...Unit on the air 10-9".

...Bloesch Family:

Eleven Years ago we lay to rest Officer **James Bloesch**. Today we do some catching up with his family. Son, **Matt Bloesch**, joined the Marin County Sheriff's Department in June of 1999. On August 5, 1999 **Matt and his wife Karin** were blessed with their second child whom they named after his grandfather, James. **Young James Bloesch** weighed in at 11 lbs. and joins his big sister, **Bridget**, who is three years old. Grandmother **Stephanie Bloesch** is just beaming with pride and knows that Jim is watching over the lil' ones...

...Computer Tip:

Solo, **Marty Way** advises everyone to check his/her default date setting on his/her computer. Make sure you have it set on the 4 digit (m/d/yyyy) year setting. Remember most computers came with the two (m/d/yy) as the default and that is what will cause your computer problems at the end of the year. Maybe...

...Raising Funds:

Julie Gonzalez, Recruitment, Sylvia Harper, Investigations, and Joyce Watkins, Investigations spent the day behind bars and in shackles on August 17th. They were raising funds for the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The telethon was held September 6th. Contributions are still being accepted. Make out a check payable to MDA and forwarded it to anyone of the above miscreants...

...Looking Past November 1999:

In November '00 district election of Supervisors will take effect. We can expect a dramatically changed board. Maybe not the personalities - but how they think, campaign, and prioritize issues. All decisions made by members of the board will be made in anticipation of the November '03 Mayoral race. In essence all

members of the Board will be preoccupied with making sure they are one up on the other. During this period we will be negotiating contracts, proposing Charter Amendments related to issues of concern to our members. Therefore it is important to have in office a Mayor who is not running for reelection and has been supportive of City employees. It is for those reasons that it is important that Mayor Brown be reelected...

...Taxi Tool:

The Taxi Detail has prepared an administrative citation which offic-

ers can issue in lieu of traffic citations. This new citation is a huge innovation, which gives field officers a practical tool for dealing with the demeanor of the City's taxi drivers. Supplies of the new form are available from Sgt. **Vince Simpson** in the Taxi Detail. A big thank you to the entire detail for developing the cite...

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

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1999 SFPOA Scholarship Awards

By Phil Dito,
Fraud Detail

The POA Community Services Committee is proud to announce 1999 awards of scholarship to sons and daughters of San Francisco Police Officers. The committee was able to award \$10,000 to qualified individuals who graduated from high school this year and competed in the scholarship essay contest. This year two students tied for top honors and received scholarships of \$2000.00 each; Robert Letsch, son of David Letsch, Co E, and Erin Bisordi, daughter of John Bisordi, Administration Bureau. Robert is attending the University of San Francisco, and Erin has enrolled at Boston College. Congratulations to them both, and to the other scholarship award winners.

In addition to Robert and Erin, the Committee granted \$1000.00 scholarships to Kevin Dillon's daughter Katherine, Al McCann's daughter Erin, Lynn Atkinson's daughter Jennifer Torres, Mark Porto's daughter Allison, Jim Gaan's daughter Sabrina, and Rich Dalton's daughter Melissa.

These scholarship awards are generated by funds received from the Annual POA Golf Tournament. Special thanks should go to Gary Delagnes and his Golf Committee for the efforts in raising money for this worthwhile cause.

The two-first place essays are reprinted below.



By Erin Bisordi

Today as laws, rules, and regulations seem to control the everyday activities of youth, it is no wonder that so many teens seek the support of their peers. Teens tend to listen to their friends' advice and suggestions rather than listen to adult authority figures. Often teens associate and relate to each other in a more successful manner than they do with adults because they are going through the same physical and emotional changes. This type of significant influence can generate both positive and negative results. The influence teens have on one another can be destructive when dealing with criticism and feeling like an outcast as seen by the tragic occurrence at Columbine High School. I would like to suggest that peer support groups could be the greatest and most beneficial way of helping other students feel accepted. This type of support group could have prevented the feeling of desperation that caused the

two young men to murder their peers.

There is no easy answer as to why these two young men felt that a methodically planned act of violence was the only answer in the final expression of their rage. Many factors may have contributed to their decision. The media's common portrayal of violence in movies, television programs, and the daily news are ever present. There are horrendous death scenes in video games and individuals that feel that selling guns to youth is acceptable.

However, I feel that the most significant cause of this disastrous situation was the lack of respect that the students at Columbine High School had for each other. It is definitely a struggle for students to know each other on an intimate and personal level, especially when being influenced by stereotypes and labels. However, it is important for everyone to take a risk to get to know others whether they are of a different race, gender, or social group. The students at Columbine did not relate to their emotions nor did they respect their fellow students. It was this emotional void that allowed two young men to feel so alone and like outcasts that they had nowhere else to turn but to horrific violence.

I feel the most direct and efficient manner of helping teens feel accepted is peer focus groups. Groups of students are created randomly through the school administration, so there is an opportunity to be with people one would usually not associate with. By bringing diverse groups of students together, it places them in a more vulnerable situation. This environment allows for more open and sensitive discussions on the students' concerns, insecurities, doubts, and frustrations without being self-conscious. It is when these emotional feelings build up with no release point that the violence can occur. I feel that the desensitizing of emotions leads to violence. However, these peer focus groups can prevent the build up of rage like we saw displayed, and hopefully, prevent future fatal and tragic explosions of violence. Many teens feel that they are alone and that no one understands what they are going through. In the open and neutral environment of the focus groups though, teens will become more tolerant of each other's differences and build their own self-esteem. If only the students at Columbine would have been able to have a clear understanding of who they were and who the other students were, the stereotypes would not have held them captive and destroyed the lives of young men and women. If only they could have known

that everyone from the jocks to the intellectuals, the prom queens to the nerds, have insecurities and need the support of their peers.

No one can dictate how to treat others or how to accept one another, but it is possible to create a more positive environment for youth to share their feelings and get to know one another. I feel this is the greatest gift any school can provide in making every student feel like they are wanted and liked in the school community. I feel that this is the key to preventing more tragedies like the one at Columbine High School.



By Robert David Letsch

April 20, 1999 is a day our nation won't soon forget. The devastating loss of life in the recent student shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado has raised many serious questions and issues, and our society can ill-afford to leave them unanswered and unresolved.

One of the questions that seems to be at the top of the list is: Was there anything that the students at Columbine High School could have done to prevent this tragedy? Implementation of the answers to this question must prevent this type of tragedy from ever happening again.

In a utopian society, there would be no prejudices, stereotypes, or cliques. Therefore, there would be nothing to create an environment such as the one at Columbine High School. But as we all know, we don't live in a utopian society, and we must work hard to develop a feeling of equality, a feeling of "fitting in."

High school can be a very difficult period in a teenager's life, especially if the teenager doesn't look or act like they "fit in" with their peers. A teenager who feels like an "outsider" can become not only emotionally, but physically destructive both to him- or herself and/or to others.

I think one of the first steps toward equality among students would be for all students to accept all of their peers, not just their group of friends, as they are, and not to place labels on them because they dress or act differently. We must work on breaking our stereotypic barriers and become a school-wide group community, where no one feels like an "outsider." This solution would be ideal, but unfortunately it is probably unlikely to happen.

Another solution might be to try and break the teacher-student barrier. To the majority of students,

teachers seem to be distant and unapproachable. To students, teachers are figures of authority. Students need to feel at ease with their teachers. Students should be able to view their teachers as confidants, not just disciplinarians. With an open-door policy, not only could students discuss personal problems with their teachers, but students could also confide in them if they had concerns about other students. I know that if I had knowledge of incidents, such as those at Columbine, before they happened, my conscience would not have allowed me to keep silent. I seriously doubt that there are many students that would be able to cope with the fact that people died because they were afraid to come forward and confide in a teacher.


I think the most realistic solution to the problems at hand would be to develop counseling, training, and awareness programs for the students as well as the teachers. Such programs could be in the form of short, weekly assemblies, in which teachers and students could learn to recognize, react, and respond to the warning signs that lead to serious tragedies. Or a program like D.A.R.E. already in place in our schools, where local police officers work together with students to solve problems together. This type of program would not only be informative, but would also help build a better relationship between students and police officers. Once such a foundation is built, it is likely that communications would increase.

Schools could also start a 24-hour anonymous hotline. A combination of students, teachers, police officers, medical professionals, and/or others could operate the hotline. Students who are feeling depressed or alone or just in the need of someone to talk to could call anytime knowing they have someone to talk with and who would listen to them. The hotline would also serve as another outlet for students to voice their concerns about other students.

To solve problems and resolve issues you must have a vision or insight into what the causes are. Once a tragedy has occurred we must try to learn from it and focus on preventing it from ever happening again. Mere words cannot describe the awful tragedy that took place at Columbine High School. However, we must not ignore it or forget it. We must force ourselves to look to it for answers to save lives in our schools now and in the future. It is my hope, that in writing this paper, my ideas will contribute to the solutions to the very serious issues in our schools today, and ultimately, save lives.

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Legal Update

Arrest Law

Briefed by Mike Paganini, SFPD

People V. Perro Peter Lewis
First Appellate District
Court # A083095
Date : 08/25/99

Question: Does a police officer need to obtain an arrest warrant before entering a parolee's house for the purpose of arresting the parolee for a crime?

Answer: No

Facts: The Oakland Police Department was actively looking for Perro Lewis as he had been positively identified as the responsible person in a rash of robberies. He was known to be on active parole status. An Oakland police officer went to Mr. Lewis' house and knocked on the door. Mr. Lewis' mother asked who was there and the officer replied "Oakland Police." Mr. Lewis' mother then opened the door. The officer entered the home and arrested Mr. Lewis.

Discussion: The defendant claimed that a parole search condition allows entry for purposes of a search, however, a parole search condition does not serve as authority for a warrantless entry to effect an arrest.

The Attorney General maintained that a parole search condition allows both searches and arrests in the home of the parolee.

Ruling: The Appellate Court noted that it is a general principle of both state and federal constitutional law that absent consent or exigent circumstances police cannot enter a home to make a warrantless arrest. In California, parolee status carries distinct disadvantages when compared to the situation of the law-abiding citizen. The Court noted that other jurisdictions hold that a parolee does not have a legitimate expectation of privacy against warrantless searches, nor does a parolee have any protection against a warrantless arrest within his/her home. Thus, the Appellate Court ruled that a parole search condition allows a police officer to enter the home of a parolee for the purpose of arresting the parolee.

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Another First for the SFPD

San Francisco Chief of Police Fred Lau poses with graduating rookie Officer Nancie Stockwell (center), and her proud mother, Officer Juanita Stockwell (right), following ceremonies at the Police Academy. The Stockwells are the department's first Mother/Daughter team of police officers.

Senior Officer Stockwell wears star #1701, and is assigned to Richmond Station. She is a 19-year veteran, and a member of the 137th recruit class.

Daughter Nancie, star #1702, is on her way to the Field Training Program as a member of the 191st recruit class.

The San Francisco Police Officers' Association welcomes young Officer Stockwell and her classmates into this great department. We also extend congratulations for a job well done — for many reasons, and on many levels — to both Officer Stockwells. It is often noted how extensively this department is steeped in heritage and tradition. The Stockwells have just added a significant new chapter to that long, proud legacy. — Editor



Vote "YES" on Proposition B San Francisco Firefighters and Police Retirement Equity

In 1980, a ballot measure was passed that allowed Police and Firefighters to transfer from the Tier I to the Tier II Retirement system. There are currently 165 active police and firefighters affected by this transfer policy. This transfer policy excludes these public safety employees from receiving any retirement benefit improvements already approved by the San Francisco voters for all other police officers and firefighters in the Tier II retirement system.

These benefits consist of Domestic Partner benefits, Reciprocity, the recently passed Prop. C (the 3% cost of living upgrade), and the 2% at 50 upgrade.

PROPOSITION B

- Is a no-cost to taxpayers measure. An costs incurred by this measure for implementation of benefit upgrades for the 165 police and firefighters will be paid out of the City's Retirement Fund surplus, over a 15 year period

- Allows 165 police officers and firefighters who transferred from Tier I to the Tier II retirement plan to exercise a provision in their original contract that allows them to payback the money they were given plus interest. This money will be put back into the City's Retirement Fund Individuals who choose to pay back their money will be fully incorporated into the Tier II retirement system and

start receiving the current benefits that all other Firefighters and Police Officers now receive.

- Simplifies the voting process. This Proposition will fully incorporate these transferees into the Tier II retirement plan making it no longer necessary to have a separate vote each time benefit improvements are granted to the larger Tier II membership.

Proposition B simply corrects a disparity that exists and creates equity for all Firefighters and Police Officers in the Tier II retirement system.

San Francisco Police and Fire Retirement Equity Committee
E-Mail: RetirementEQ@Juno.com

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Lee Guelff Continues Body Armor Legislation Campaign

Lee Guelff, brother of slain San Francisco police officer James Guelff, has been a tireless and dedicated advocate for nationwide legislation that would prohibit criminals from wearing and possessing body armor. Ever since his brother was ambushed on Pine Street by a gunman clad head to foot in body armor, Lee has lobbied legislators, citizen groups, and police organizations all across America for support for this vital legislation.

Of course, all of us in law enforcement owe Lee Guelff a great debt of gratitude. But, as if his work on the "James Guelff Body Armor Act of 1999" weren't enough, Lee also monitors news from around the nation and keeps the POA informed and in the know about the progress made on this issue.

Printed on these two pages are several items forwarded to the Notebook by Lee Guelff that will be of interest to you all. If you want to contact Lee for more information, his address and phone are available at the POA, or from Captain Rich Cairns, Treasure Island.

— Editor

To all United States Senators:

"On behalf of the LESC [Law Enforcement Steering Committee], I am writing in strong support of S.B. 783, "The James Guelff Body Armor Act of 1999", introduced by Senator Feinstein. This bill is named after San Francisco police officer James Guelff who was killed by an assailant wearing body armor who was able to insulate from police fire."

— Kenneth T. Lyons,
International Brotherhood of Police Organizations

Dear Chris,

I have enclosed a few articles FYI. The shooting death of Officer James Snedigar in Arizona (see APB article) was similar to the SF/LA shootings. Suspect wore body armor and was struck several times before going down. I spoke with some of the guys in the Chandler, AZ PD, and they intend to pursue similar legislation.

Also enclosed is a copy of the proposed Michigan legislation (modeled on the California Bill). Officer Kurt Skarjune, who has been helping with this, plans to come out in November. Portland PD will be pursuing legislation as well. They have all the information and Texas will probably introduce next year.

I spoke with Rafael Goyeneche with the Metropolitan Crime Commission in New Orleans regarding the body armor sale by an officer (see article) to 'Master P' and he indicated he would like to pursue additional legislation in Louisiana. Unfortunate incident.

NAPO [National Association of Police Organizations] did us a favor with the enclosed poll. Word must be getting out. Thank you again for all the support you have given us. This is beginning to spread across the country now... state by state.

Hope all is well with you.

Sincerely,
Lee Guelff

Intelligence Bulletin

Date: August 19, 1999
To: All Law Enforcement Agencies
From: Harahan Police Department & Metropolitan Crime Commission of New Orleans
Re: Rap Artist Percy Miller aka "Master P" possessing body armor

A joint investigation by the Harahan Police Department and the Metropolitan Crime Commission has confirmed that rap artist Percy Miller, aka Master P, purchased ten (10) Top Line level III-A bullet resistant vests (serial #s I 1256-11265) from a law enforcement officer and his civilian associate in mid 1999. The officer purchased the vests from a police supply house at a discounted law enforcement price and resold them with assistance of a civilian associate to Percy Miller at a \$2,000 profit. Although the body armor was initially turned over to Percy Miller and/or his associates, it is unknown who currently possesses this equipment. The officer in question is presently under disciplinary review by his department.

One of the Top Line vests surfaced during a March 24, 1998 traffic stop conducted by a Louisiana State Trooper on I-10 in St. John Parish. The Trooper arrested Corey Miller, aka "C Murder" (Brother of Percy Miller) for possession of a concealed weapon (9 mm semi-auto handgun), possession of a stolen vehicle & unlawful use of body armor. Corey Miller, at the time of his arrest, was wearing one of the Top Line level III-A vests purchased by his brother, Percy Miller.



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Reprinted from American Police Beat, July/August, '99 edition

Arizona Officers Mourn Their Losses

By Mark Nichols

When Chandler police needed a point man in a recent standoff with three heavily armed gang members, James Snedigar volunteered. His family and co-workers say it was typical that James would ask to be the first to go in. He was that type of guy.

football teammate of Snedigar. The tougher the job, the more he wanted to do it." Snedigar was the first Chandler police officer to die in the line of duty. When James Snedigar was gunned down, the Phoenix community was still mourning the death just three weeks before of Officer Marc Atkinson, who was ambushed and fatally shot

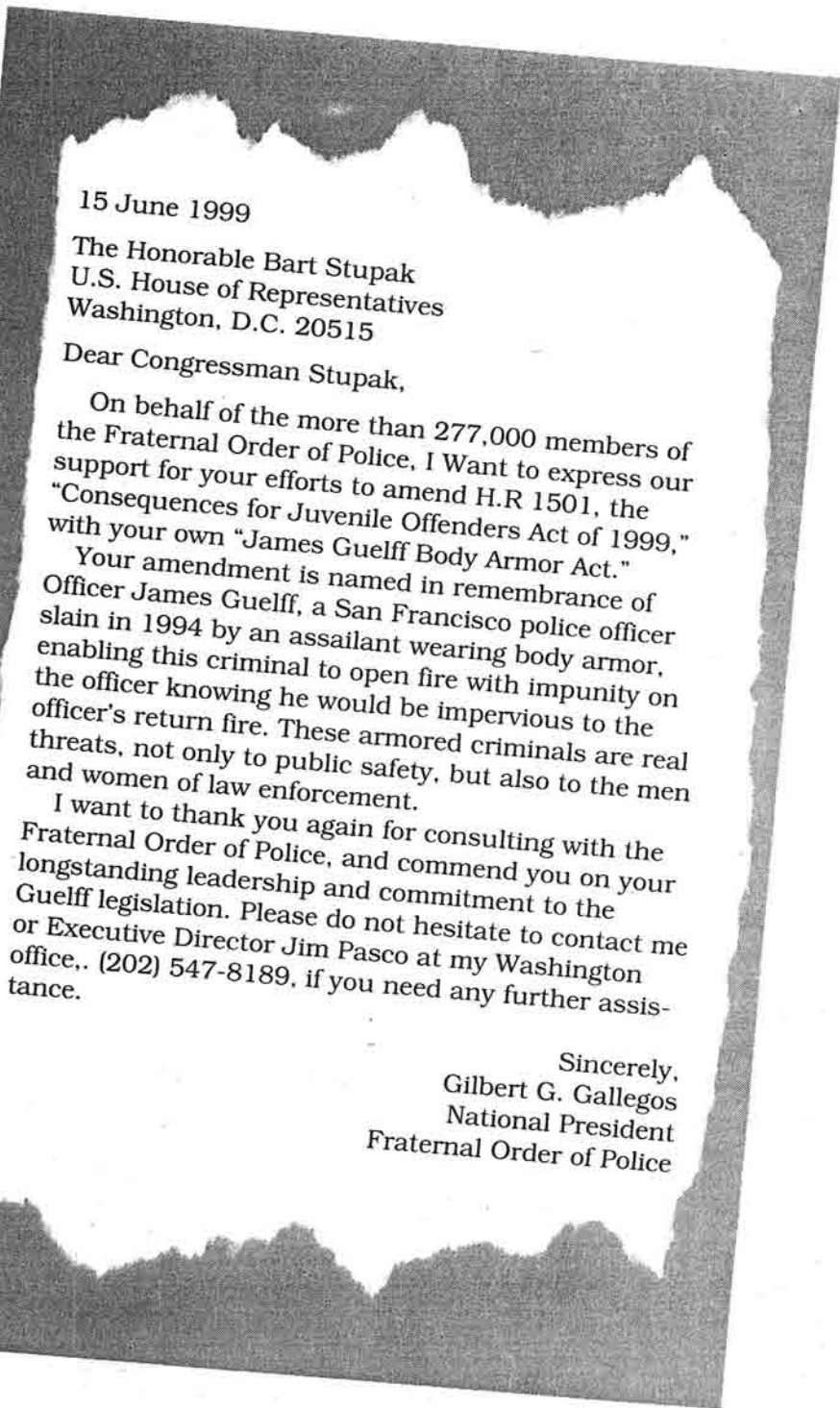
Snedigar entered the apartment first and was immediately shot in the face by Martinez, who had a Chinese SKS assault rifle equipped with armor piercing bullets and wearing body armor.

Officer Snedigar, a four-year veteran and former Army paratrooper, was shot and killed by Sergio Hernandez Martinez, a suspect in a jewelry store robbery and member of the "New Mexican Mafia" street gang. Officer Snedigar and other officers pursued three suspects in the jewelry store robbery to a gated apartment complex where one of the suspects barricaded themselves in an apartment. Snedigar was with members of the SWAT team when they stormed the apartment where the suspect was located. SWAT officers shot out the door of the apartment and threw grenades inside the apartment. Snedigar entered the apartment first and was immediately shot in the face by Martinez, who had a Chinese SKS assault rifle equipped with armor piercing bullets and wearing body armor. Martinez was shot to death by SWAT officers who had followed Snedigar into the apartment.

...a man who had been driving behind the officer and witnessed the shooting got out of his car and exchanged fire with the cop killer.

Officers who knew and worked with Snedigar remembered him as a man who routinely put the lives of others ahead of his own. "It was almost like a challenge to him," said Joe Waters, a high school

by drug dealers. Arizona officers in the Valley area of Phoenix are clearly worried about the rash of violence against law enforcement officers. Along with the deaths of Snedigar and Atkinson, five other officers were shot in one month alone, including Sgt. John Schaper and Officer Charles Bridges of the Tempe Police Department. Marc Atkinson, who was only 23 at the time of his death, had been following three drug dealers when their vehicle stopped. The driver exited the car and shot Atkinson with a .357-caliber revolver. Officer Atkinson was working a narcotics assignment with two other officers in the parking lot of a local bar. The two other officers were called away on other assignments just before three suspects got into a Lincoln sedan and drove off. Atkinson followed the vehicle from a distance, but was shot after he lost visual contact after the vehicle rounded a corner and stopped. After Atkinson had been shot, a man who had been driving behind the officer and witnessed the shooting got out of his car and exchanged fire with the cop killer. Rory Vertigan, who was honored for putting his life on the line to help a cop by the Phoenix Police Department, managed to wound the shooter who was arrested and taken to a local hospital. The two other suspects were quickly apprehended after they tried to leave the scene on foot. Police discovered as much as a pound of cocaine in the vehicle the suspects had been driving. Atkinson was remembered by friends, family, and colleagues as a loving father and husband and a dedicated policeman. He leaves behind his wife, Karen, and a six-month-old son, Jeremy.



Officers in Need of Assistance

In a recent NAPO survey, the American people make it clear they want a better deal for their law officers

WHAT THE PUBLIC IS SAYING:
Officers should be allowed to carry their firearms from one state to another.

1. **77% AGREE**

Congress should pass legislation to keep cops hired under 1994 Crime Bill.

2. **85% AGREE**

We should pass laws to keep felons from wearing body armor.

3. **83% AGREE**

College scholarships should be offered to police who want to continue their education.

4. **67% AGREE**

Retired cops should get a cost-of-living adjustment in their pensions.

5. **84% AGREE**

It is possible for a cop to be too qualified.

6. **87% DISAGREE**

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Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers

Theme: "Honoring Operation Dream"
Special Luncheon: Thursday, October 14, 1999
Time: 1200 hours

Location:
Police Officers Association, 510 - 7th Street, (7th and Bryant Sts.)

Guest Speaker:
Sergeant Michael B. Slade and Officer Charles McCullar

Operation Dream was founded in May 1994 by twenty-five (25) committed police officers of the Department's Housing Task Force. Their goal was to build a rapport with the children and their families in the City's Public Housing developments and reduce/stop generation to generation crime. Sergeant Michael Slade and Officer Charles McCullar are the coordinators for all programs operated for Operation Dream. They will explain the current programs such as: The toy drive that serves approximately 15,000 children, a welfare to work, three computer learning centers, mentor and tutor training, self esteem camps, quarterly field trips... well the list goes on and on.

We will present a check and Certificate of Appreciation to Operation Dream, to kick start the fund raising for this great charity organization. Please attend and support Michael Slade and Charles McCullar.

Reservations:

Cost: The cost for the luncheon is only \$1.00 (ten) per person. You must pay in advance for this luncheon (Not Tax Deductible).

If you pay by check make it payable to: Daniel Hampton and send the check to Daniel Hampton, Planning Division, 850 Bryant Street Room 500, S.F., Ca. 94103. If you pay by cash hand deliver it to Dan.

There are no refunds for this luncheon, the caterer must be paid in advance to prepare for the meals. Bar-B-Que Ribs, Beef, and Chicken will be served by Brother-in-Law (a private vendor).

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San Francisco Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers

John F. Kennedy Jr.

By Daniel Hampton

Alas! Our hearts go out to the Kennedys and Bessettes. To lose your loved ones in an untimely and unfortunate accident. It's a tragedy not only to both families but also for our nation.

Yes, I remember where I was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I was sitting in my desk in my classroom at St. Emydius, my grammar school. Our teacher announced to us the tragic event and the television was put on. Whether it was the newsmen, politicians, or ordinary citizens on the TV, the tears in the eyes, the sobs of anguish, and the anger of the loss was apparent. And when we went home from school it all played out again, where our parents and us were glued to the tube for days, feeling the same emotions.

Do you remember the salute of John F. Kennedy Jr., as his father's casket passed by him? He was only three years old and his father was our nation's youngest President. We loved his father because our hopes and dreams were wrapped up in him. I think the passing of John Jr.'s father and his salute to him broke all of our hearts.

On television they have played out the life story of John Jr., numerous times. Though, personally, I have not followed the details of his life after his famous salute, he resurfaced in my own mind when the paparazzi was exploiting his adult life. He was a person who treasured his privacy and plugged along to achieve his many successes in life. The clips of his life with Carolyn showed their romance, ups and downs, and a surprise fun loving marriage; which maybe all of us can relate to. One clip of their life together showed them both at a family reunion. Their clowning around, their romantic antics,

and their display of love toward family members warmed my heart. But, in this same clip they also showed John Jr., taking communion at the family gathering. It made me see they were persons of faith who openly partook in the sacrament of communion. They had a special trust and faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Their faith in Christ assures me that their lives have just begun, because Christ says in the Gospel of John, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish," (John 11:25-26).

The tragedy of losing these three persons are felt by the families and the nation because we are left behind. All of us have to pass through the veil of death, leaving our bodies and all the material trappings this world offers us. But if we have the faith that they did, Heaven will prove to be a far, far better place to dwell in. In the Bible the Psalmist says, "In His (God's) presence fullness of joy. At His right hand pleasures forevermore. Oh what fellowship divine, I am His and He is mine. In the presence of the Lord fullness of joy."

None of us on earth can really understand what real joy is. But Christ promises it to us, if we keep our faith in Him. My brothers and sisters in Christ, renew your faith in the Lord. Go back to your churches and rededicate your life to Him. Enjoy the communion of fellowship with those in the Body of Christ at your Catholic or Protestant Churches. To the best of your ability follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and dedicate your time in applying it to your lives. For true religion is helping your brothers, sisters, widows, and orphans who are in need, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Editor's note: This excellent and inspiring article was inadvertently omitted from the August issue of the POA Notebook. I regret the oversight, and apologize to the author, one of our most consistent and reliable contributors. — Ray Shine



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Secretary's Desk

Thank You Notes

By Steve Johnson
POA Secretary

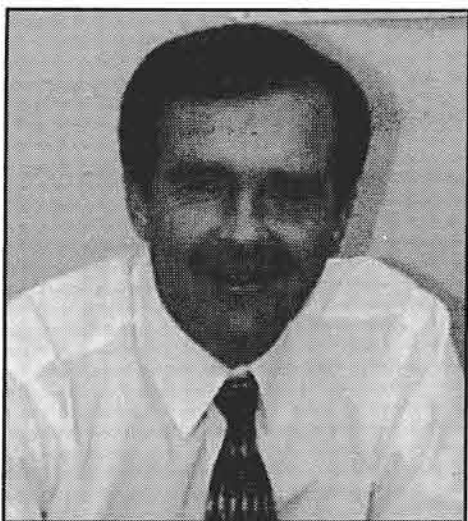
When my girls were very young, their thank-you notes were drawn in crayon. They eventually progressed to personalized stationary and, with age, they no longer asked for the words they knew they wanted, but just couldn't spell. It was most common for the notes to be mailed after each birthday. But recently my youngest found a new reason. Orthodontics required the removal of one of her teeth and, once the job was done, Lauren wrote to the dentist responsible thanking her for making the experience "quick and painless".

My daughter's correspondence reminded me that there are a lot of different reasons for thanking a lot of different people who have donated a great deal of their time to our Association for the benefit of our community.

If you enjoyed the recent 150th SFPD Anniversary Dinner at the St. Francis Hotel, you need to thank **Pat Barsetti**. She was instrumental in making it happen.

If you have ever had the opportunity to participate in one of our SF-POA Christmas or Easter Hospital Visits, you need to thank **Sergeant Jennifer Forrester**. Jennifer also makes sure that the patients from Laguna Honda Hospital who are without families have the opportunity to enjoy both Mother's Day and Father's Day with members of our SFPOA Family each year. She does an incredible job. Jennifer was joined this year by **Inspector Yvonne Pratt**, **Inspector John Keane**, **Officer Alexandra Medina**, **Officer Ivan Sequeira**, and **Officer Rich Struckman**.

I recently had the chance to work with a great team during the 150th SFPD Anniversary celebration at 3-



Com Park. We set up a barbecue just prior to the Giants vs. Pirates Game and, while it really wasn't "quick and painless", I think everyone had a pretty good time. Those responsible: **Lt. Joel Harms**, **Off. Michelle Jean**, **Off. Carolyn Gassen**, **Sgt. John Fewer**, **Lt. Jack Ballentine**, **Capt. Tim Hettrich**, **Off. Mike Mahoney**, **Off. George Leong**, **Comdr. John Portoni** and his wife, **Kathy**, **Capt. Kevin Dillon**, **Cmdr. Heather Fong**, **Sgt. Bruce Fairbairn**, **Chris Cunnie** **Pres/SFPOA**, **Jack Minkel** **Treasurer/SFPOA**, **Gary Delagnes** **V-Pres/SFPOA**, and the secretarial staff of the SFPOA: **Yvonne Huey**, **Laverne Petrucci**, and **Louise Wright**. (We've already reserved a section at the new ballpark for the same time next year.)

The newspaper you're reading is put together each month by **Officer Ray Shine** and, a person we really need to thank, **Georgette Petropoulos**, the lay-out and formatting whiz who works for our publisher, The Howard Quinn Printing Company.

There are many more individuals who should be recognized for the great work they do for our members and, from now on, you'll be reading about them in this column.

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S.F.P.D. Family Day Picnic

Saturday, October 2, 1999

For those who have attended past picnics, we hope you enjoyed it enough to return this year. For those who have yet to attend we encourage you.

In order to have a successful event we need hundreds of volunteers and lots of donations. Please give Laura

Pisciotta (553-1551) or Officer

Marquita Booth (671-2300) a

call to volunteer. The

hour or two that you

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ence!!! We have people who actually like

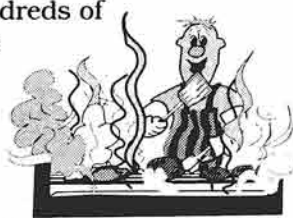
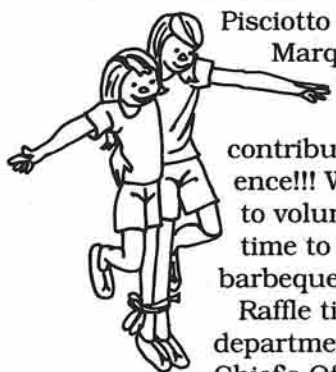
to volunteer the entire day. But, let's give them enough time to have a break and grab some of that wonderful

barbeque food as well. Raffle tickets are currently being sold throughout the department for great prizes. Each District Station, the Chief's Office, Inspector's Bureau (room 400), and the

Range will have tickets available.

Every year we try new ideas: this year your kids can get dunked in the dunk tank. Bring a towel and change of clothes if your kids plan to go in the tank.

Sorry, no family pets allowed.



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Retirements

The San Francisco Police Officers' Association bids fond farewell to retiring **Inspector Richard Heller**, Operations Center, and **Inspector Gary Peters**, Photo Lab. We also wish the best for **Officer Linda Fontenot**, Taraval Station, who leaves on a disability retirement. Thank you for your service to this community, as well as for your friendship and dedication to the department and your fellow officers. Enjoy your much-deserved retirements, and stay in touch with the Association wherever you may go.

- Chris Cunnie

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87th Recruit Class Celebrates

40 years ago the 87th Recruit Class of the San Francisco Police Department was sworn in and hit the city streets. Now they are celebrating their anniversary and welcome all to attend.

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LAGUNA HONDA

(continued from page 1)

would have disastrous effects on its residents individually and on San Francisco as a city.

Many of the current residents could literally end up on the streets. Many families would be torn apart by their inability to care for their disabled loved ones in their own homes. Moreover, the pressures on highly expensive acute care hospitals and emergency rooms would bust the City's health care budget.

Fortunately, the tobacco lawsuit settlement monies won in court by the San Francisco City Attorney's office can be applied to the costs of rebuilding Laguna Honda Hospital. Those funds, plus the proceeds of a bond issue on this November's ballot, could assure construction of a modern, state-of-the-art replacement facility that will continue Laguna Honda's long tradition of compassionate care for San Francisco's most needy and deserving, well into the 21st Century.

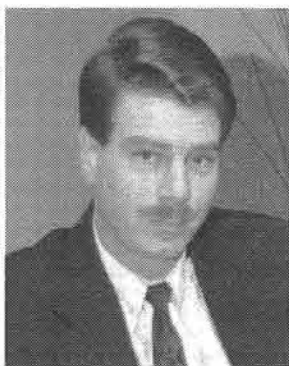
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Exclusive report

Secret Y2K Plans Leaked from FOB

By T. Roy Smiley,
POA Millennium Monitor

Even as all San Francisco police officers are making Y2K contingency plans for life and family — based on the Chief's order canceling days off for an entire week — it appears that the department itself is woefully ill-prepared for the up-coming New Years celebrations. In an alarming secret document leaked to me by a source inside the Field Operations Bureau, I now have written proof that the planning is not progressing well and is, indeed, pitifully stalled for lack of creativity and vision.

The following memo — excerpted here lest my source be identified — actually suggests to the command staff that all Y2K operations orders be drawn as parallels to an old US Army Manual of Campaign Directives.

"All postings and rotation schedules" writes one FOB planner, "should closely resemble the meticulous regimen outlined in the US Army Campaign manual."

Another staffer has boldly suggested, "We should increase our mounted unit ten-fold as it is obvious after reading [the manual] that horses will offer us the optimum mobility 'midst a sea of reveling humanity."

Sergeant Dan Linehan, the department's lead Y2K planner, scoffs at the notion that a century-old army manual would be the blueprint for the SFPD millennium plans. "You don't know what you're talkin' about, Smiley." He declared nervously. "You're a phony, and nothing but a s*** disturber."

But, just before the door slammed shut in my face, I caught a glimpse of a very telling piece of contradictory evidence sitting high on a shelf inside his office: an old dull and dented cavalryman's bugle.

So, here is what I do know. The following was copied from an old "Cavalry Journal" You judge the credibility of my informant for yourself...

The United States Cavalry, regardless of regiment, followed a certain routine every day when on campaign. This was almost invariable — only something like a major storm or a hostile encounter could change it. It went like this.

At one hour before sunrise, the bugle sounded First Call. All troops arose, rolled their bedding, dressed, and struck their shelter (army for "took down and folded the tents"). Thirty minutes later Stable Call sounded. Troops went to the picket line and fed, watered, and groomed their horses for the next half-hour. At sunrise Reveille sounded. Bedding and folded shelters were loaded in the wagons. Fifteen minutes later, Assembly was blown. There was a roll call.

Following roll call, Mess Call sounded. This was the first of the only two meals the troops got in a day, and they got 20 minutes to eat

it. Twenty minutes after Mess Call, Boots and Saddles was sounded. Horses were saddled and any on-saddle equipment was fixed in place. Troops were allowed 15 minutes, and then Stand To Horse was blown. A roll call followed. As soon as roll call was completed, the troops were ordered "Prepare to Mount! Mount!"

As soon as the troops were mounted, the column moved out. Thirty minutes later they were halted to readjust equipment and tighten cinches (which the army called "girths"). The remainder of the day was spent moving, with 10 to 20 minute halts every hour. Movements alternated between the walk and the

trot, but was almost never at a gallop. The horses were watered, from a stream if handy, from water barrels on the wagons if there was no stream, at noon.

Troops were allowed one canteen of water per day, which they could refill from streams or springs, but — except in emergency — not from the water barrels at noon. Every two

hours the troops were dismounted and led their horses, walking for from 30 minutes to an hour depending on the heat and humidity — obviously, the hotter and/or more humid it was, the longer the troops walked.

Sometime between 4:30 and 5 PM a campsite for the night was selected. As soon as the campsite was reached, the troops dismounted, unsaddled their horses, groomed them, fed them, watered them, then unloaded the wagons, pitched shelters, and rolled out their bedding. At 6 PM Mess Call sounded for the second and final meal of the day. At sundown Retreat sounded, ending the official duty day. Lights Out sounded between 8:30 and 9 PM, and Taps sounded at 10 PM. The next morning, an hour before sunrise, First Call blew and another day on campaign began.

Editor's note: Due to the inflammatory nature of this article, the POA Notebook feels obligated to print as a response any article or memo from the administration that would either refute or corroborate this allegation, or any other piece related to the up-coming Y2K preparations. —RS

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Truth is stranger than fiction

A True Story from Associated Press

By Kurt Westervelt

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, the president, Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. The decedent had jumped from the top of a ten story building intending to commit suicide.

He left a note to that effect indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window, which killed him instantly.

Neither the shooter nor the decedent was aware that a safety net had been installed just below at the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

Ordinarily, Dr. Mills continued, "a person who sets out to commit suicide and ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended" is still defined as committing suicide. That Mr. Opus was shot on the way to certain death nine stories below at street level, but that his suicide attempt probably would not have been successful because of the safety net, caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands.

The room on the ninth floor from whence the shotgun blast emanated was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously, and he was threatening her with a shotgun. The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger

he completely missed his wife and the pellets went through the window striking Mr. Opus.


When one intends to kill subject A, but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B.

When confronted with the murder charge, the old man and his wife were both adamant. They both said they thought the shotgun was unloaded. The old man said it was his long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her. Therefore, the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident, that is, the gun had been accidentally loaded.

The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the son was in fact Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window. The son had actually murdered himself so the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

Very tidy of him.



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Plan Now For Ireland 2000 Grand Tour

Sunny Saint Patrick's Day Parade In Cork City, Ireland

By Patrick Burke,
Park Station

Unbelievable, incredible, and miraculous were words frequently used by the wonderful people of Cork City in Ireland, to describe the, once in 26 years, beautiful day we were blessed with for the 1999 Saint Patrick's Day Parade. The hospitality and outstanding welcome shown to our SFPD Good Will Tour Group was equally as warm and we really felt at home with and appreciated by one of the largest crowds Cork City had at a Parade in a long time.

One hundred and twenty goodwill ambassadors from San Francisco joined the parade and made the glorious walk through the lovely streets

and meet us. We distributed hundreds of SFPD stickers to these delightful "wee ones."

As we proudly marched along, SFPD, SF Sheriffs, SF Firemen, Cork San Francisco Sister City Members, Ancient Order of Hibernian Members, SF Parade Grand Marshals, family members and SFPD friends, we were truly a fine group. Mary O'Malley Wright, over 80, who was one of SFPD's first lady police officers, gallantly marched the whole route. It was an overwhelming experience for all of us but especially for Deputy Chief Diarmuid Philpott (ret.) and I, who were both born in County Cork, and also for Officer Andy Meehan who hails from Co. Offaly.

An incomparable, wonderful tour of Ireland followed our stay in Cork City. Our many fantastic experiences and great friendships made all over Ireland in the past two years have assisted us in preparing the **Ultimate Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Deluxe Coach Tour of Ireland** for the Millenium. Our P.O.A. sponsored **3rd Annual IRELAND SFPD Grand Tour** will entail great hotels, delicious food, marvelous people, beautiful scenery, great entertainment and fun. It will be the first time a San Francisco contingent will parade in Galway City, Ireland.

All are welcome on this great adventure but space is limited so please call Pat Burke at 650-755-2299 IMMEDIATELY for further details.



Adrian Culligan, Chief Superintendent of the Garda Síochána (National Police Force) in Ireland, presents Chief Fred Lau with a Cork Crystal Centerpiece in commemoration of the participation of the San Francisco Police Department in the 1999 Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Cork City, Ireland. Chief Culligan made the presentation to Chief Lau on a recent visit to San Francisco.

of Cork, which were lined by thousands of cheering and applauding citizens. The children of Cork were a joy to behold as they strained to see



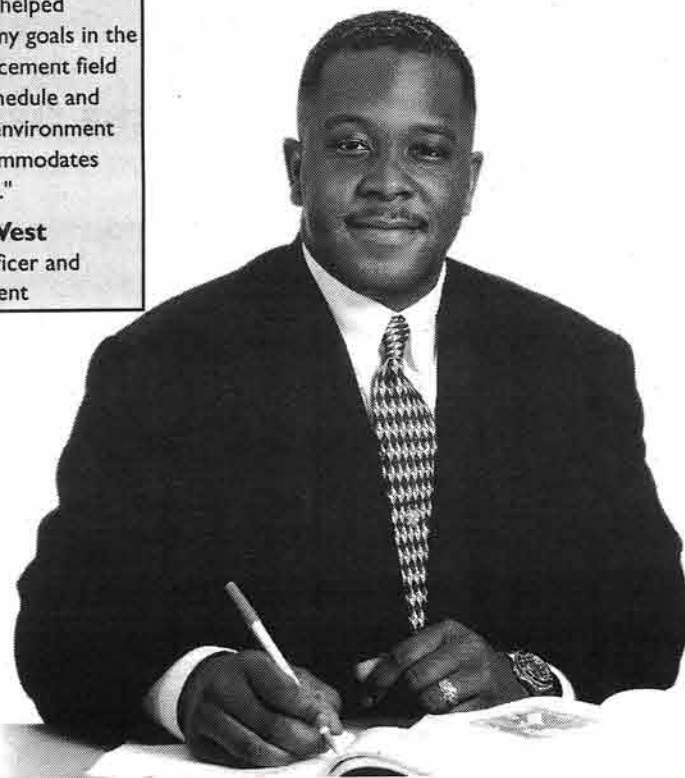
Officers Michael Philpott, Pat Burke, Andy Meehan and Jon Kasper proudly lead the San Francisco Police Department contingent through the streets of Cork City, Ireland in the 1999 Saint Patrick's Day Parade.



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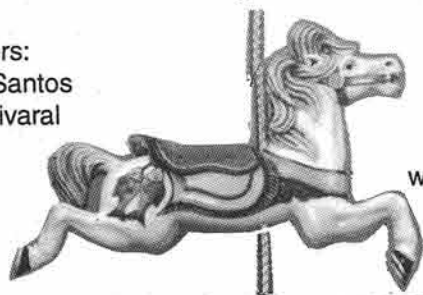
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SFPD 150th Anniversary Celebration and Party

By Ron Roth,
Bayview Station

One year ago Chief Lau approached Commander Portoni, Commander Fong, and myself and asked us to plan an anniversary party for the 150th birthday of the SFPD. After long debates, much committee work, and a lot of help from others, we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the San Francisco Police Department at the St. Francis Hotel on August 14, 1999.

This party was actually planned to be like no other function the Department has ever had. Chief Lau wanted

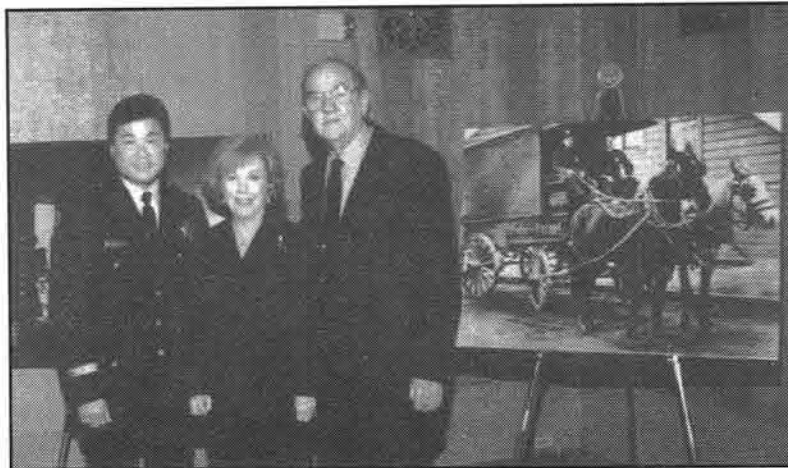
the celebration to be free from politics, long speeches, and boredom. The challenge was set, and preparations began. The Friends of the SFPD, under the guidance of President Henry Morris, led the charge hiring well-known fundraiser/event planner Mary O'Shea. Her job was to raise as much as possible to benefit our 3 SFPD non-profits: Operation Dream, the SFPD Fishing Program, and the Police Activities League.

The evening began with a large reception decorated with dozens of old SFPD photos along with recent SFPD action photos taken by Sgt. Pete Thoshinski. The SFPD Pipe and Drum Band opened the dining room, leading the charge into the Grand Ballroom. A large 150th Anniversary banner augmented the stage with the Anniversary flags set at each

table setting. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was KTVU's news anchor, Leslie Griffith. Her close relationship with our Department, along with her warm personality, made her the perfect hostess, orchestrating the rest of the evening. The SFPD Lion Dance Team started the party after chas-

ing away all the evil spirits from the room with their rigorous routine.

We were blessed by the presence of senior SFPD Chaplain John Heaney who performed the invocation, and allowed us to begin to eat our dinners. The St. Francis Hotel pulled out all stops with the dinner, serving Beef Wellington to all attendees. It was later capped off with a chocolate Transamerica-type pyramid with a "Happy 150th



Chief Lau poses with Mr. and Mrs., Carl Malden



Retired Chief of Police Cahill and assistant Chief Earl Sanders



Gity and Mike Hebel enjoy the celebration.

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SFPD Lion Dancers drove the demons and spirits from the hall.

Anniversary" edible chocolate ribbon added. Although it looked too nice to eat, we all rose to the occasion and did our duty.

Mayor Willie Brown addressed the crowd with accolades for all of our members, past, present, and civilian as well. Chief Lau stood very proud in his dress blues and welcomed and thanked all as well. Special guest, Lt. Mike Stone, otherwise known as Karl Malden, actor from *The Streets of San Francisco* was flown in for the occasion and was the hit of the evening. Mr. Malden explained to the crowd that in his five years as Lt. Stone, unlike most of us, he solved a crime every week. His gregarious personality truly made us realize how much *The Streets of San Francisco* added to our Department's worldwide, positive image.

Leslie Griffith then proceeded with a special tribute to former Police Chief Tom Cahill. His record setting 12 years as Chief, beginning in 1958, was only one of the reasons our special night was dedicated to Chief Cahill. His leadership and foresight helped bring our Department into the modern era, not only with technology and training, but with compassion and sensitivity for all. A film clip from KTVU's "Segment 2" featuring Chief Cahill was shown to the audience, followed by a plaque presented to the former Chief by Assistant Chief Earl Sanders.

During the dinner and presentations, music was provided by Dick Bright, who later brought in his entire "SRO Band" and finished the evening with dancing for all. If there was any doubt that the crowd enjoyed the event, one only had to see the "conga line" with 150 party goers snaking through the ballroom to conclude a fun-filled night was had by all.

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From left to right: Isiah P. Nelson Award Recipients: Officer Jeff Sung, Officer Ricky Terrell, Officer Rebecca Minalga, Officer Tim Fitzgerald (1999 Award Recipient), Dorian Nelson and her son, Anthony, Sara Kelly, Sgt. Bill Herndon, Lt. Don Carlson, Chief Fred Lau, and SFPOA President Chris Cunnie.



SFPOA President Chris Cunnie, Officer Tim Fitzgerald, Officer Rebecca Minalga, Officer Ricky Terrell, Officer Jeff Sung, and Officer Yvette Poindexter

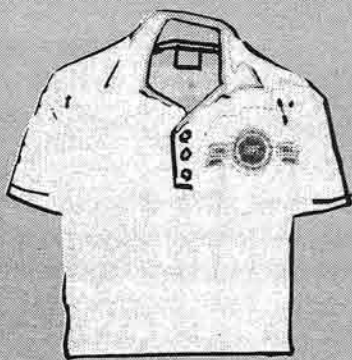
The Celebration Continues At Ballgame

By Chris Cunnie,
SFPOA President

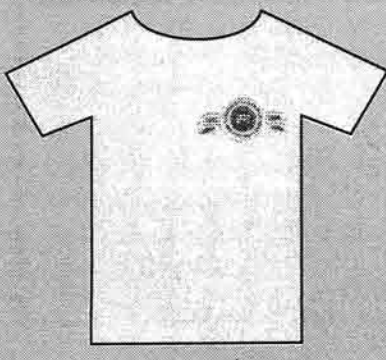
On Sunday, August 29, 1999, the SFPOA sponsored a free barbecue and arranged for an excellent price for reserve seats to the Giants/Padres Game at 3-Com Park as part of the SFPD 150th Anniversary Celebration. Dorian Nelson (widow of Police Commander Isiah P. Nelson) presented the Isiah P. Nelson Award to the 1999 recipient, Officer Tim Fitzgerald.

The event was extremely well-attended, the Giants won, so it just makes sense to do the same thing next year. Arrangements have already been made to reserve a section of the new Giants ballpark so that we can attend a game, as a group, during the year 2000 baseball season.

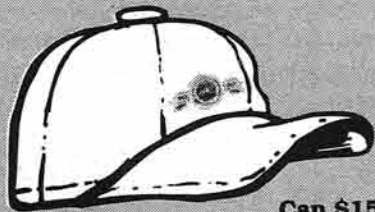
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Thank you in advance.

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Rey Ibay #148	553-1603
Harry Soulette #1510	(415) 207-6206
Dominic Yin #1778	553-9162
Randy Caturay #372	(650) 220-2062

"The vest you give may be a life you save."

CyberNews

By Glenn Sylvester,
 Academy



Finding a great deal on a product or service requires information and research. As such, you may have heard the term "informed consumer". What about "informed user"? All too often one may take for granted that another person should have known or knows better when it comes to computers. I too have made this mistake. So let's talk about hoaxes. They come in the form of e-mail and take on many faces. While some are very innocent in appearance, they can also be a nuisance. Here are a few of them:

- Free software from Microsoft,
- Free groceries for a year,
- Free Trips

and the list goes on. One of my favorites to recently hit the Internet reads like this:

"Windows will Fail on Jan 1"

"Every copy of Windows will fail on January 1st unless you fix it now, to fix it..."

1. Click on "My Computer".
 2. Click on "Control Panel".
 3. Click on "Regional Settings".
 4. Click on the "Date" tab. Where it says, "Short Date Sample" look and see if it shows a "two Digit" year. Of course it does. That's the default setting for Windows 95, 98 and NT. This date RIGHT HERE is the date that feeds application software and WILL NOT rollover in the year 2000. It will rollover to 00.
 5. Click on the button across from "Short Date Style" and select the option that shows mm/dd/yyyy. Be sure your selection has four Y's showing, not two.
 6. Click "Apply" and then click on "OK" at the bottom. Easy enough to fix. However, every single installation of Windows worldwide is defaulted to fail Y2K rollover. "Thanks and have a great day"
- Yes, this is a hoax. Where can you find these hoaxes and check up on

them? Try this site: <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

Once here, you can check to see if the e-mail you received is a joke or not. Better off to check first rather than forward it off to one or all of your friends on the Internet and continuing to propagate it. Afterall you are an "informed user" and not a nuisance.

My thanks goes out to Insp. Tom Feledy for bringing this reminder to me.

Watch out for those advertising gimmicks for Y2K, here is an email that I received and it's not a hoax. Just ask any mathematician.

VCRs IN Y2K

Some, if not most, VCR's won't be able to use the programmed advanced recording feature.

"Do not throw away your VCR in the year 2000. Set the year to 1972, because the calendar days of the week and month will be the same as the year 2000.

Please pass this on, because you know the manufacturers will not share this information. They will want you to buy a new one that is Y2K compliant.

Until next month, happy computing.

Glenn R. Sylvester
 San Francisco Police

email: glennsyl@pacbell.net

glennsyl@aol.com

hightechcop@pacbell.net

homepage:

<http://members.aol.com/glennsyl/glennsyl.htm>

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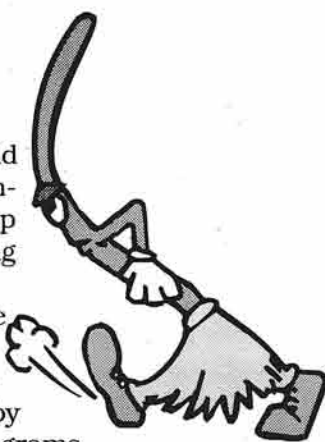
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Great Sweep V

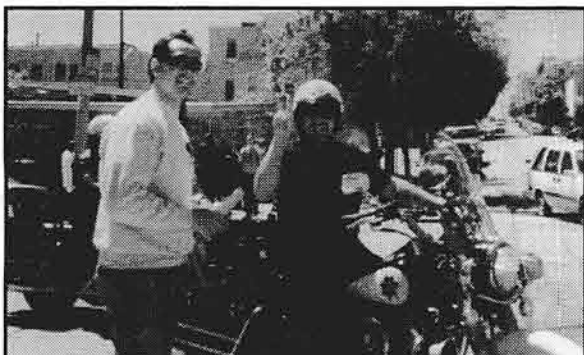
The Great Sweep V kick-off luncheon was held at Civic Center Plaza on Wednesday, September 8th at 12:00 noon, with the actual Sweep taking place on Saturday, October 16, 1999 starting at 9:00 a.m.

San Francisco's fifth Great Sweep will benefit the San Francisco Police Department, Fire Department and the Department of Public Work's respective toy programs. A portion of the funds raised by KMEL radio station will go to the Christmas Toy programs. KMEL has also generously offered to donate \$1,000 to all three toy programs for every 10,000 volunteers registered for the Great Sweep V.

The preparations for Great Sweep V are already under way. The theme is "Take a Uniform Stand Against Litter" with Police, Fire and other city departments playing a significant role. Please contact (415) 554-5447 or visit DPW's website at www.sfdpw.com to volunteer. If you are a seasoned Great Sweeper, thank you for your past support and we look forward to seeing you on October 16, 1999!



Solo Kevin Gotchet prepares to escort other city employees in the great sweep.



Solo Lt. Keith Sanford (l) gives clean sweep directions to Solo Steve Hutzler

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POA

12,296 FLEE

(continued from page 1)

equate computer system; demographic changes in the work force; longer lives for retirees; increasing number of members with very high annual claims (exceeding \$200,000); rich benefit structure; artificial subsidies; inadequate claims audit function; and a nearly non-functional telephone system. Couple this to the general difficulty in controlling costs in a fee-for-service delivery system.

An analysis of the defections from the City's plan over the last two years shows "voting by their feet" by large numbers of active city employees. Those remaining are growing older with their contribution rate based on plan utilization. A large number of retired employees cannot leave this plan because it is their only option: that is, they live out of the State of California, or in some of California's more remote northern counties. This plan is not seeing — in large enough numbers to be helpful — the enrollment of new city employees with their families. These new, younger employees consistently opt for an HMO — a decision principally driven by the cost of the City's plan.

The City "self-administers" its health plan. It acts as a health insurance company — sets a benefit structure, collects premiums, and admin-

isters claims. The Health Service Board does the benefit structure and premium designation; the claims are administered by the Human Resources Department. A deputy director from the Human Resources Department (HRD) heads the claims administration function, reporting to the director of HRD and not to the Health Service Board.

In recent years, the Health Service Board has not set member contributions at a level which adequately covered claims made against the System. For the period of July 1, 1998 through April 30, 1999, for example, active employees' claims exceeded their contributions by 8%, retired employees' claims exceeded contributions by 12%, and minor dependents' claims exceed their contributions by 18%. This helps to explain why the HSS trust fund used \$17 million in reserves over the last two years, and is less than 2/3rds adequately funded.

The ills of the City's health plan include:

- \$17 million loss of Trust Fund reserves
- \$5 million lost annually in uncollected premiums
- Millions paid to private doctors and hospitals without contracts and without performance guarantees
- \$3 million dollars in overpaid claims
- Outdated technology and computer systems
- A 600% increase in premiums for retired employees in 2 years, with a similar increase for active employees
- Many active and retired employees sent to collections by their treating physicians because the HSS did not timely pay legitimate claims

Should the City and County of San Francisco get out of the health ben-

efits management altogether???

It is my opinion that this alternative must be considered. Were the City Plan a private insurer, it would have long ago failed because of the multitude of ailments already stated. It may have been closed down by the California State regulatory agency in the best interests of the public. Although the HSS/HRD receives \$6.5 million from the City's general fund, it does not appear committed to properly funding and staffing its "insurance company."

Open up the System to Competition

In October 1999 the HRD deputy director for the HSS (Ann Sommercamp) will send out a "request for proposal" inviting health care providers to submit their bids for the provision of health care for active and retired city employees. The POA health services committee has urged Ms. Sommercamp to open the competition to the largest number of bidders including CALPERS, Aetna, Blue Shield and Blue Cross. This committee has urged Ms. Sommercamp to put out to bid the indemnity plan (now managed by the City Plan), that is, to see if another health provider can take over and restructure the City Health plan.

The POA's health services committee has had discussion officials in the CALPERS Health Program. This program currently provides benefits to over 1,073,000 active and retired State, county, and city workers and their dependents. It is the second largest health program in the United States: the federal government manages the largest. It covers health care for 1,200 public agencies in California. It currently offers 9 HMO's and 2 indemnity plans through Blue Cross. CALPERS has enormous clout when negotiating with providers. It has a well-developed and highly professional staff. Unlike the CCSF health plan (plan #1) which acts like an insurance company, CALPERS administers the plans but does not do claims work — this is done by the HMO's and Blue Cross. It provides for out of state retirees in two ways: HMO's in 17 states and 2 country wide indemnity plans.

CALPERS does presently have

some significant limitations. It cannot provide coverage for domestic partners. This may be remedied by SB 107, which has passed both houses of the legislature, and awaits Governor Davis' signature. It may not be able to provide coverage for city employees who leave city service early with vested pensions, and then resume health service system coverage upon receipt of their vested pension. This may be worked out with local jurisdictions.

The question crying for an answer is: Is the City and County of San Francisco really committed to the management of a self-administered health insurance plan???

I say: "Check their actions!"

How long does it take to get a telephone call answered, if at all?

How long does it take to receive service at the HSS headquarters at 1145 Market St., 2nd floor?

How many former city employees and their family members remain in CCSF health plans after they have quit, been fired, or gone on extended leaves of absence?

How many millions of dollars have been overpaid to doctors and hospitals?

How many dead people were kept on the rolls to handle office expenses?

Why have so few staff members been assigned to the claims paying function?

Why does the HSS function with technology systems not used by private health insurance companies for the last 10 years?

How long, if at all, does it take to get correspondence from members answered?

Can this system really be professionally managed with its current split of responsibilities between HRD and the HSS Board?

Finally, it is my belief, based on recent CALPERS contracts to take effect on January 1, 2000, that the City Health plans will see premiums rise for HMO's at a rate of 10% to 12%. The City's health plan, depending on its claims experience, will likely rise even further. If you remain in the City plan, this will be the crucial year. Premium increases like the last two years will drive out another 6,000 to 8,000. Now is the time to look for alternatives!

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Got Insurance?

Dear President Cunnie —

By way of introduction, I am an attorney here in San Francisco who has had the privilege over the past 25 years of representing San Francisco Police Department officers who have been injured while on the job because of third party negligence.

I am writing to enlist your support in "passing the word" to all officers with regard to a problem I have recently encountered, i.e., I have experienced numerous instances in which police officers who have been seriously injured by negligent acts of third parties who frequently have little or no insurance, are severely undercompensated because the officers carry inadequate UM/UIM (Uninsured Motorist/Underinsured Motorist) coverage on their personal automobile policies. As you know, pain and suffering and other losses are not covered by workers' compensation, and can be recovered only from the third party's insurance or an officer's own policy.

This has prompted me to put together a list of tips (attached) which I believe will be of interest to your members who may be injured by negligent third parties. The "bottom line": every police officer who subjects him/herself to the greater likelihood of significant

personal injury while patrolling the streets should carry a minimum of \$500,000 UM/UIM with their personal insurance company.

Sincerely,
Jerry Spolter, Attorney at Law

Did You Know?

- Even if you are driving an employer's vehicle in the course and scope of employment, your personal automobile policy may provide coverage under its UM/UIM coverage if you are injured due to the fault of an underinsured or uninsured motorist.
- Driving without your seatbelt may preclude, under your own automobile insurance policy, recovery of medical bills under the "medical pay" coverage section. (This is now effective for USAA policies and may extend to other companies.)
- Because more than 50% of all drivers are uninsured or underinsured, **MAXIMIZE** the amount of your personal UM/UIM coverage—at least \$500,000.
- If an employee is injured on the job, his/her UM/UIM will not kick in until after dollar-for-dollar deductions from available third party insurance and workers' compensation benefits. (Example: Employee/injured party has \$100,000 UM/UIM coverage, is hit by driver with \$50,000 insurance coverage and receives \$25,000 in workers' compensation benefits. Therefore, \$100,000 UM/UIM less \$50,000

third party, less \$25,000 workers' compensation benefits received = \$25,000 potential UM/UIM recovery.)

- It is prudent to carry at least \$25,000 in "med pay" automobile coverage to provide benefits immediately, without question of fault, in case of injury to yourself or to your passengers.
- If a person operates a vehicle without insurance (or while intoxicated) and is involved in an accident, he/she cannot recover general damages resulting from those injuries (i.e., "pain and suffering") even though the accident was entirely the other party's fault. (Civil Code §3333.4)
- If you are riding a bicycle and someone opens a door from a parked car into the lane in which you are traveling, that person is likely liable for your personal injuries and property damage. (California Vehicle Code §22517)
- If you are injured by a vehicle while walking or riding a bike, you are most likely covered under your automobile policy's UM/UIM (uninsured/underinsured motorist) coverage if the other party is at fault and does not have liability insurance comparable to yours.

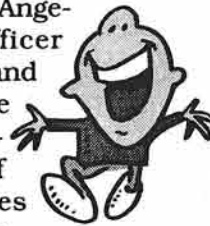
These important tips are provided to POA members by Jerry Spolter, Attorney at Law, and long-time friend and supporter of San Francisco police officers. He has offices in San Francisco. — Ed.

Burglary Suspect Runs Afoul of More Than Law

Submitted by Sam Hamilton

Some might call him the Wile E. Coyote of would be burglars.

A man broke into the home of an armed Los Angeles police officer early Sunday and tried to escape through an obstacle course of cactus needles and iron spears.



The officer, Luis Gasca, said he grabbed his weapon and confronted the intruder about 3 a.m., the Anaheim Police Department said.

Gasca reported that he fired his gun when he thought he saw a weapon in the burglar's hand.

The intruder ran outside and stumbled into a bed of cactus. A knife taken from the officer's house was found outside later.

It was not known whether the man was wounded by the gunshot.

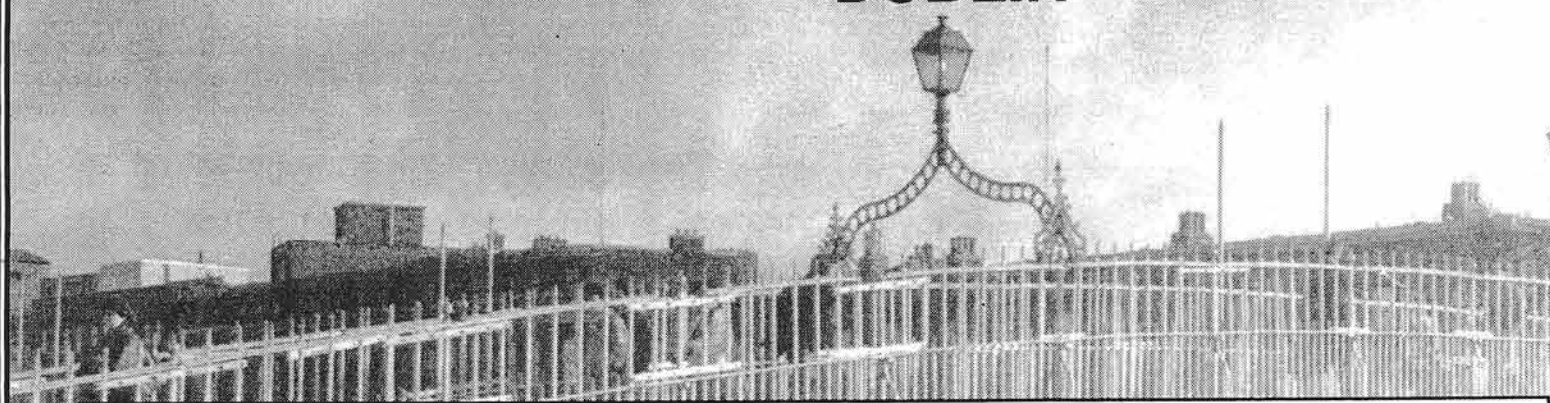
After freeing himself from the prickly plants, the suspect tried to jump a wrought-iron fence — only to spear himself in the groin.

Myner Santiago Martinez, 22, was arrested later that morning in connection with the case after seeking treatment for his injuries at Anaheim Memorial Hospital.

— Wire reports

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- **St. Patrick's Eve Night Parade Party at An Garda Siochana's (Irish Police) exclusive social club in Dublin City.** The evening will be full of music and all the craic (pronounced "crack", Gaelic for fun) you can handle!
- **Festival Parade** It's official the best St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world. An intoxicating mix of pageantry, color, music and madness.

- **Monster Ceili** Irish dance on a massive scale as St. Stephen's Green becomes the stomping ground for beginners and experts alike, dancing to the music of Ireland's best Ceili Bands.
- **Major International Street Theatre Production** One of the world's great street theatre companies will perform a unique night-time spectacular on the streets, the river, and roof tops of the city. Who knows what they'll get up to!

- **The Big Day Out** Theatre, music, circus, comedy, dance pageants on the streets of Dublin. Hit-and-Run Theatre, Big Bands, International Carnival.. The above are just the headline events but there will be lots to startle, surprise and delight the unsuspecting shopper or stroller, throughout the city and throughout the festival.
- **Tours include an evening at An Garda Siochana's (Irish Police) exclusive social club in Dublin.**

Tour A: \$1,350

March 14-25

Includes air, accommodation, breakfast, dinner, coach/guide expenses, entry fees, and entertainment for two evenings — one being in a 16th century castle with dinner included.

Tour B: \$1,230

March 14-25

Includes air, accommodation, breakfast, coach/guide expenses, entry fees, and entertainment for two evenings. (Differs from Tour A in that there are two free days and dinner is not included in Dublin.)

Tour C: \$995

March 14-21

Includes air, accommodation, airport transfers, breakfast, and one night's entertainment.



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MEMBER



Pet Corner

By Deborah Braden
Background Investigations

What do we do when we see a skunk? We retreat! How ever that is not the case with our canine friends. Dogs just can't seem to resist the opportunity for "taking on" a skunk and rarely escape the skunk's reaction to this meeting. The skunk will "spray" only for their defense and not as an attack. This spray can reach an enemy 10 to 15 feet away.

However, the odorous result of being "sprayed" must feel like an attack to both the dog and the owners.

Ridding the dog of the odor can be quite a task. Bathing the dog in tomato juice was once considered the "best" remedy. Other home remedies consisted of a mixture of tomato juice and soda or vinegar and water. Someone suggested a recipe of dish detergent, baking soda and peroxide. **Water is not recommended. It just seals in the skunk oil.** There are now commercial products available at pet supply stores and veterinarian clinics. Some of these new products are **water less** and all are being used with great results.

Did you know that skunks come in every shade of brown, black, grey and blond. There are albino skunks that have pink eyes and there are white skunks that have dark eyes.

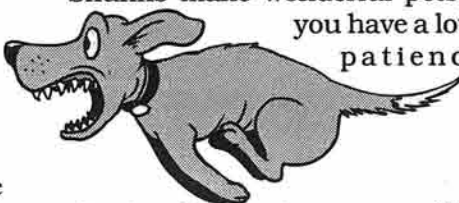
There are even lavender skunks. They can have two, four or six stripes and skunks can have spots and swirls mixed in amongst the stripes. Their tails are all different shapes and sizes.

To the dogs' disadvantage skunks are said to be extremely intelligent and hardheaded and virtually silent animals. Given the skunks personality and characteristics, you would think that a dog would think twice before approaching a skunk again after being "sprayed" once. I continue to hear reports from owners of multiple encounters their dogs have had with a skunk. They move slowly (a hazard for them with cars), are very strong for their size (average weight between 7 and 10 pounds), and will eat anything, but are mainly vegetarians.

Skunks make wonderful pets. If you have a lot of patience,

understanding and a sense of humor, they are wonderful, funny, affectionate and cuddly pets. Descended of course! Skunks can be very loving and lovable and can give back 100 times the love, affection and fun that you give to them...not a bad deal, although your dog may not think so. They can live from 10 to 20 years inside our home and two to three years in the wild.

The skunk population has probably increased in the City since the military left the Presidio. Seems that the military personnel would trap the skunks and control the numbers. Now the skunks are free to roam and have done so, especially in the Richmond district. So watch out for those close encounters.



Officer safety alert

Needlestick Incidents Up Sharply Risks Include Exposure to HIV

By Mike Cowhig
Psych Liaison

In 1998, there were 29 San Francisco police officers exposed to HIV. Most of those incidents involved officers getting stuck in the finger or hand by a hypodermic needle, usually during a clothing search of a drug user.

As I write this article, there have been 33 such cases reported this year. That's unacceptable, but the number of reports may be a direct result of the department's education effort. Earlier this year, sergeants and senior patrol officers were reacquainted with the reporting procedures for needlesstick incidents as part of the Booking and Detention Course. However, a case by case examination attributes the increase to two other significant factors.

First, more suspects are carrying or concealing more than one hypodermic needle. Many have several needles secreted about in their clothing. Officers should always ask about needles and other sharp objects prior to searching anyone, particularly during a less-controlled street search situation. But even after making such inquiry, and retrieving any needles the suspect admits to having, officers are becoming "stuck" by needles either forgotten about or deliberately hidden. It's ironic that the more diligent the search, the more risk the officer takes in regards to needlessticks.

A second factor is that there are more needles out there — a lot more. Without getting into all the pros and cons of needle exchange programs, it's obvious to those of us who deal with this problem that there is a proliferation of needles in peoples possession. We're talking lots of needles. Lots and lots. Many suspects involved in these exposure cases have a few to several dozen needles on them or in their bags. Whether drug users are reluctant to exchange the needles, or there are other reasons, the bottom line is that there are

a lot more needles that can stick you. If you or a co-worker are involved in one of these HIV exposure cases, be it a needlesstick, a bite, or a suspect spitting in your face/eyes/mouth (these can be but aren't always considered an exposure) here's a checklist of Do's and Don'ts:

- Seek emergency medical treatment as soon as possible (408 or at an ER).
- Immediately notify your supervisor. He or she will contact Operations Center and set into motion a number of things, including notification to me via the General Work detail. I will begin the legal process for getting the suspect tested. This is critical. It's nearly impossible to get someone tested out of custody. With length-of-custody limitations, the sooner the exposure is reported, the better the chance I have of getting the Forensic Aids Project personnel notified in time to get the suspect tested before they are released. Exposures should be reported within the hour they occur. Hepatitis information is always asked for and often obtained, but not guaranteed. The POA is examining this whole issue, but it's a topic for another column.
- Respond to SFGH, Building 9, to the OHS section (workman's comp). If it is after normal clinic hours, respond to Mt. Zion Hospital. At either of these medical facilities you will receive a "baseline" test followed by further treatment and counseling.
- Don't attempt to get the suspect tested yourself. Even the best of intentions will irrevocably complicate the whole matter, and the results won't be obtained.
- Don't delay reporting the incident, even if you're not sure that you've been exposed. Talk to someone. Call Operations Center. Ask them to contact me. It is always better to call as soon as possible rather than to delay.

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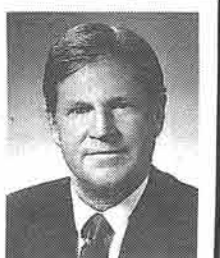
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★ Sgt. Bill Arietta, Retired ★ Chief John Willett, Retired



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Letters

Thank you

Dear Chris —

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for joining me on July 19 in San Francisco for the signing of Senate Bill 23, the toughest assault weapons ban in the nation. As you know, the light to get these weapons of war off our streets has been a long and difficult one. I thank you for your courage.

Although we each arrived at the steps of the Hall of Justice with individual, personal experiences with gun violence, we were united by the common belief that assault weapons have no place in our schools and neighborhoods. Despite the best efforts of those who oppose laws such as this one, you and I both know that guns do, in fact, hurt people. I know there is more work to be done in this area, but SB 23 represents an important milestone in our struggle to protect California's families from further gun-related tragedies.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Thank you again for being a part of this historic event.

Best regards,
Gray Davis
Governor of California



Dear Chris —

Thank you for generously agreeing to sponsor the refreshments for the groundbreaking ceremony for the new TTF station. Captain Manheimer and I appreciate it greatly, especially considering the short notice. Knights Catering did an excellent job. Please let me know if we can do anything for you in the future. Again, thanks.

Sincerely,
Lt. Timothy Foley
Acting Captain
Tenderloin Task Force



Dear Chris —

We very sincerely wish to thank you for your appearance at the Governor's office last week in support of Senate Bill 402 for binding arbitration. Your willingness to take time out of your busy schedules to support our efforts is deeply appreciated. The insight and comments you provided will hopefully enlighten the Governor's office on the necessities that the entire rank-and-file law enforcement community needs to accomplish economic and workplace justice and fairness for our members.

Again, our warmest thanks and appreciation goes to you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Los Angeles Police
Protective League
Ted Hunt,
President

Wilderness Program kudos

Editor —

I would like to express my thanks to Insp. Alexis Goldner for inviting me to participate in her Juvenile Wilderness Adventure.

These three excursions involved taking groups of juveniles from the Visitation Valley, Sunnysdale, and Holly Park areas to Marin County. Our day started off at the Golden Gate Dairy Stables. After meeting there, we took off for a nature hike that culminated with our exploration of Muir Beach. From there we headed off to a beautiful meadow where we barbecued, and the kids got plenty of energy out swinging on the rope swing over a creek.

After lunch, we walked over to an outdoor riding arena in the meadow where we were met by a group of very mellow horses. The kids took turns riding each horse back and forth in the arena for hours.

At the end of the adventure, each participant got a picture of themselves on horseback framed in a horseshoe.

Being a horse owner, I am always more than happy to share my love of horses with others that are new to the challenge, so this was a perfect assignment for me!

Kudos to Insp. Goldner, and Officers Walt Scoff and Roger Keenan of the SFPD Wilderness Program for their hard work in organizing this. Additionally, thanks to the many horse owners who graciously volunteered their horses and time for this memorable event!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Lee,
F.O.B.

Support for Faulkner

Editor —

I just finished reading "The ongoing trials of Maureen Faulkner" in the *Notebook*.

This brought back to mind an incident that happened about a month back. I read in the *SF Chronicle* that there was going to be one of those B.S. free Mumia Abu-Jamal rallies. The article also stated that your city's President of the Board of Supervisor's Tom Ammiano was scheduled to speak. This angered me, so I E-mailed him (supammiano@aol.com), and asked him if there was a rally for a convicted killer of a San Francisco police officer, would he speak at that rally???? He never answered me. Anyway, be glad he's not running for mayor. Also, I just mailed in a check to help out the surviving members of Faulkner family.

How about you Tommie??
A.J. Hartzer
Retired SFPD, Park Station



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www.sfpoa.org

City and County of San Francisco



San Francisco City and County
Employee's Retirement System
Investment Division

25 August 99

Dear Fellow City Employee:

When **Al Casciato** began his term as Commissioner of the Retirement Board in 1995, your Pension Fund's assets were valued at \$6.5 billion, roughly equal to the liabilities, or the amount needed to pay existing benefits. Now the assets are valued at \$10.5 billion — far in excess of the liabilities — and the funding status has improved substantially. **Al Casciato** has played a leading role in making this dramatic improvement possible.

Al Casciato has also championed causes to improve your benefits. As a safety officer, he has been directly involved in providing improved benefits for Tier 2 fire and police employees, which were obtained through ballot measures in 1996 and 1998. He is now working to provide improved benefits for Tier 2 Miscellaneous employees. He has been a strong voice for labor and has worked tirelessly for employee rights.

I have had the pleasure of working with **Al Casciato** on several important issues during his four years on the Retirement Board. He has always put the interest of City employees first.

Please join me in voting for Al Casciato for Retirement Board Commissioner for a second term.

Sincerely yours,
Herb Melberger
Retirement Board Commissioner

(415) 554-1530 1155 Market Street San Francisco 94103

Thanks to Casciato and Johnson

Editor —

We have a great bunch of guys working with us and for us in the SFPD! In Al Casciato's "Around The Department" column (July 1999 Issue), I was the "Retiree who resides in New York State" I wish to thank Al and Steve Johnson (Who wears my old badge number, 216) for their persistence in helping me retrieve monies that were wrongfully taken out of my retirement check. It was a weird feeling, not to be able to get to some "live person" to help me with my problem. Well, they were just what the doctor ordered, as they both reassured me that they would personally work to correct my situation, which they did. Thanks a lot, guys!

Ron Kennedy,
SFPD Retired

Well done

Editor —

Received the POA Notebook and am compelled to write as a former newspaper writer and editor (back East) that your writing throughout the paper is superb! Unbelievably so!

Respectfully,
E. Patricia Lucey
San Francisco

Dear Mrs. Lucey — Thank you for your kind words. They are particularly gratifying considering your expertise in the field. As you no doubt are aware, any publication is only as good as its writers and contributors. We are fortunate to have a fine group of writers at the Notebook.
— Editor

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PAL BASKETBALL

The San Francisco PAL Basketball will begin on Thursday, September 30, 1999. Games will be on week nights, Saturdays, and possibly Sundays. The PAL Basketball program targets youth in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Separate divisions will be held for boys and girls.

All team rosters are due by Friday, September 10, 1999. Team entry fee will be \$75.00. Call for your entry

form, rules and regulations. The Basketball season runs from September 30th through November with play-offs in December.

If you are interested in entering a team or officiating, please call the PAL office at 415-695-6935.

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- Sgt. William Murray, SFPD (after the catering of the SF Latin POA's Cinco de Mayo Party on Treasure Island, 5/99)

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for all of their hard work
throughout the 1999 season!



R.W.S. Rocks Haight Street

Notebook Staff Report

On Sunday, June 13, 1999 the Rock band R.W.S. took it to the streets in the Haight and left the crowd panting for more. The seven-member band is a motley collection of six San Francisco police officers and one talented keyboardist who hangs with the boys in blue. The event was the Haight Street fair, and the band assembled on stage at Haight and Masonic streets for a rockin' session that impressed everyone for blocks around.

The band kicked it off with a rollicking rendition of the Buddy Holly hit "Not Fade Away." Drummer Roland Tolosa cranked it all up, and it stayed a hot ride right through to the end. The set ran more than an hour in length, and included an encore call from the enthusiastic crowd.

R.W.S. (Release When Sober) is comprised of Drummer Tolosa of Crime Scene Investigations, lead singer and guitarist Mike Morley of the Domestic Violence Response Unit, lead guitarist and vocalist Larry Barker of Central Station, bass guitar and vocalist Dave Garcia from Northern Station, saxophonist and percussionist Kevin Martin hails from Southern Station, and harp and percussionist John Anton of the nearby Park Station. The keyboard is manned by the only non-police officer in the band, rocker Denis Loiseau.

The crowd was largely locals and the band was introduced to the "counter-culturists" as "some guys from the neighborhood that you may

or may not recognize." The band was initially reluctant to have the crowd know them as police officers, but in the end, the crowd was more impressed by the music than by the other gig the cops have when not playing their instruments. The tunes were classic rock'n'roll, including songs by the Rolling Stones and Van Morrison.

RWS is a talented bunch of outstanding musicians whose love of rock'n'roll and joy of making music is clearly evident by the music, the stage persona, and the command of their audience.

The band first appeared on the San Francisco music scene in December of 1997 in a debut performance at the Park Station Christmas party. Its first real public performance was in October of 1998 at the "Baldy Bash", a benefit/fundraiser terminally ill children hosted by the Wish Upon A Star foundation. The event was held at Bimbo's on Columbus Avenue before a crowd of 600-800 very impressed attendees. Their name and popularity is catching on, and one local music critic has already tagged RWS as "the best garage band in San Francisco!"

When RWS concluded their performance at the Haight Street Fair, Emcee and local music aficionado Ed Pasqualin did tell the crowd who the band players were: "Oh, by the way. I forgot to tell you something about this band.... they're San Francisco's Finest... they're all cops!" This set the crowd off again into a rousing ovation.

If you or someone you know needs



Left to right: Dennis Loisa, Kevin Martin, Dave Garcia, Roland Tolosa, Mike Morley, Larry Barker and John Anton

a rockin' fine band to play at a party or dance, consider contacting RWS. Any of the band members can arrange a performance. You can enjoy the next scheduled performance of RWS at this year's Department Fam-

ily Day Picnic. It will be held at the Police Range on October 2, 1999. Come out and enjoy the day; eat, play, dance, and sing. Support some of our own.

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The California Mounted Officers' Association

1999 Trail Trials Competition

(Color Guard/Uniform Class Events)
Solvang, California

By Stan Buscovich
San Francisco Police Department/
Mounted Unit

The spectators outside the arena cheered as the two mounted patrol color guard teams marched proudly into the arena to be judged. Each rider and horse, four abreast, looked grand in their ceremonial uniforms and tack. Flags, carried honorably on poles by the mounted officers, flew majestically in the wind as the units moved around the arena on horseback. One team rode in a four flag or a basic color guard formation; the other unit rode in a military color guard formation (two flags inside, with outside riders acting as honor guards).

As the judge for both the color guard team competition and the individual uniform class event, I was already in the arena, on foot, and ready to begin the contest. I stood dressed in my class AA S.F.P.D. Mounted Unit formal uniform, and employed the California State Horsemen's Association (C.S.H.A.) rules/point level for judging a color guard competition.

Each team was judged using eight different categories for class points at the stand still/attention inspection, as well as two moving right wheels. The scores at the end were extremely close, with just one point separating the first team from the second (97-96 out of a 100). Both teams deserved such high marks due to their effort that day. Moreover, both could have easily entered the Grand National Rodeo Color Guard Competition at the Cow Palace in San Francisco in October and ribboned.

The Uniform Class event took place immediately after the Color Guard Team Competition. The Uniform Class is the big event at the Internationals back East, as well as in Kentucky at the Colloquium, the CAN/AM Games in Canada, and in the South at the National Mounted Championship. It's always the first event of the competitions and for the winner-department, it carries year-long bragging rights in the mounted community concerning which formal officer/uniform, tack and horse is the best.

I entered this division years ago at the Internationals in Maryland-with over 100 teams competing in just this one event. It is both a team and unit effort, but only one formal officer and horse walks into the arena to represent their department. Four teams, officers and mounts, entered this year in Solvang for the Uniform Class division and, once again, the competition was just as fierce for this event as it was for the Color Guard Team Category. The scores were close; therefore, judging them was not easy. Three class sections-formal officer/uniform, tack, and horse-were scored for points in this inspection (at attention) event.

In the end it was very close as to who was the best that day. Ultimately, only one officer and horse was picked as the winner. Nevertheless, each one of the competitors and their mounts shown was a credit both to their unit and to the department that they represented.

At the end of the two competition events, photos were taken and well-deserved congratulations-accompanied by loud cheers from the crowds outside the arena-were given to all of the competitors. For many reasons,

it was an honor to judge these formal mounted patrol officers and their steeds that day.

First of all, I know the unbelievable time and effort it takes to professionally show. Secondly, I understand the many reasons behind why we do these age-old ceremonial assignments, for there is often a chilling reality attached to our formal details as well as to why we are always preparing and competing for excellence. What follows is an unfortunate reminder of that truth:

Just before the competition started that morning, a command officer who was neither riding nor competing in the upcoming event, but was from one of the color guard team's department, approached me as I was walking toward the arena. The news he told me was very disturbing.

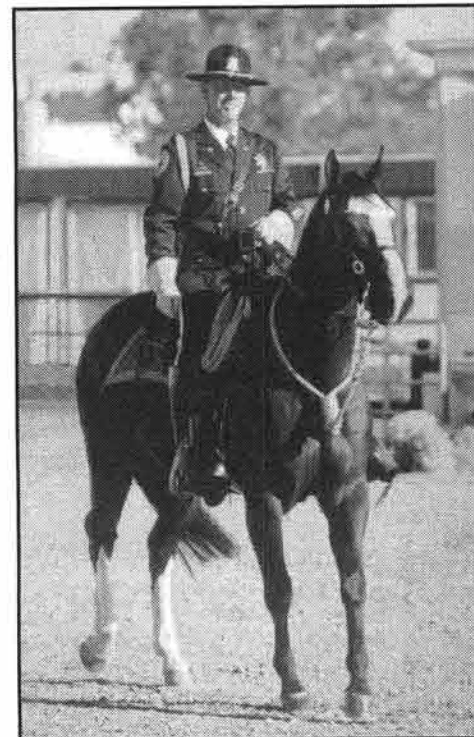
That morning, a fellow officer from his department back home was just killed in the line of duty, and that the color guard team from his department, which was just about to enter into the arena, might have to leave the event and return to their county. He asked me if I could stop the competition and request for a moment of silence and prayer for the fallen officer.

I honored his request, and notified the crowd of the loss of our departed brother. A silent prayer was said, then our pledge to our flag was observed with two formal color guard teams-now in competition, and including the team representing the department of the fallen officer-rendering the flag and hand salute to our National Flag / Standard.

It was not an easy moment, but the units out in that arena were pros, and my mind and heart went out to them because they knew, as well as I did, what would come up in a day or two for one of these law enforcement color guard teams.

My wife calls them dust collectors, i.e. the ribbons, plates, buckles, trophies, diplomas, etc., that I've been awarded over the years and have hanging in my office at home-she's right you know!

As time goes by, however, I have taken down and boxed many of them,



replacing them with pictures of friends and students that have come and gone. One is a beautiful picture of Lisa Whitney; another is of Ken Taylor (the cobra) looking down at me, sending me advice from Fiddler's Green. I know that part of our job in Mounted Patrol is to do parades and many enjoyable formal details, but our most important ceremonial job is to honor and give the highest salute, using our National Flag to a fallen officer and friend.

I have purposely left out all the names of the competitors, and units / departments that competed in the categories I judged this year at the C.M.O.A. Trail Trials in Solvang, California. They know who they are and I applaud them for their hard work and efforts in preparing for their events. They were all truly winners in my eyes, and their labors prepared some of them for a much higher and more difficult task in the week that followed.

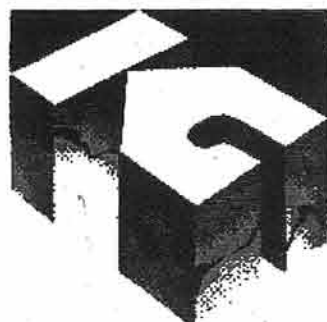
I judge, teach and strive for excellence in my job roles because I know and understand why we have to prepare, and whom we sometimes have to praise and represent at ceremonial law enforcement functions. It is a privilege to be a horse mounted patrol officer, and an even higher honor to carry our United States Flag in a ceremonial color guard detail. One must always be ready to do so whenever asked and wherever needed.

Si vis pacem, para bellum
If you want peace prepare for war

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SPORTS



Nick's Notes

By Nick Shihadeh
Sports Editor

CHECKIT OUT: The 1999 SFPD Softball Banquet took place the evening of Thurs. June 17th at Ron Dumont's City Forest Lodge. The reason it has taken me so long to write about it was that I was waiting for pics from the event to accompany this column, but I never received them. Oh well. Anyway, back to that night: it was a chance to honor the successful teams in both the A and B Divisions. Besides a team trophy, fine forest green nylon pull-over warm-up jackets were distributed to the championship teams while attractive royal blue "1999 POA Softball" golf shirts were given to the second place clubs. The snappy sportswear was a big hit at the banquet and was provided by "The Promotional Edge" in Concord which is owned by Mike Spranger (the brother of Co. E's Steve Spranger).

The "Mike O'Brien Memorial Softball Award" was also presented during the night and the very deserving recipient was long time department softball player Ben "Hansi" Vigil (also of Co. E). Benny has played exciting softball in this league for the last twenty-five years without missing a season. He's been a very aggressive and enthusiastic ball player who hits very well to the opposite field (from his coveted lead-off spot), is very fast on the base paths, and in addition plays great defense as a versatile infielder. The award was presented to Ben by last year's recipient and long time friend Dave Herman (Co. E) who has probably seen him play every one of those twenty-five years. Benny was very gracious and humble with just a few words when receiving his plaque after a nice standing ovation from the crowd. He also received one of the snappy golf shirts and a "POA Softball" ball cap; and, his name was added to the perpetual Mike O'Brien Award plaque that can be viewed at the range.

The banquet was a great way to end the season with good food and drink thanks to Dumont with the help of cook/extrordinaire Jimmy Potts. I would like to ask that whoever was able to locate Bayview Station's second place trophy that was left unattended on one of the tables that night to please get a hold of me (The Commish) at Co. F so that I may get it back to them as soon as possible.

As far as final notes on softball for this year: I'd like to thank Steve Morimoto (Airport) and Mike Andraychak (Co. A) for taking and providing for the Notebook fine photos of the softball championships. I'd also like to announce that the Mission Station Diablos have in fact finally honored the league by paying their much awaited league fees for

1999 so everyone can stop holding their breath now.

Moving on to the exciting world of department golf: Kathleen Allegro, the lovely wife of Sgt. Joe Allegro (Hondas/TAC), wanted to make sure that I'd mention in this column Joe's hole-in-one that was wonderfully achieved on Mon. Aug 30th during a Loon's Nest tourney. The shot was made on the 151 yard 11th hole at the Rancho Canada West course in Monterey. Joe used an 8 iron on his tee off on a ball that was said to have bounced about 4 feet past the hole before spinning back and in the cup. This was obviously very exciting for Joe as it has taken him thirty-years to finally ace a hole. The bar bill wasn't a thing to worry about either; Joe originally shelled out around \$88.00 for the traditional round of drinks, but he was glad to find out later that the tab will be picked up by the Loon's Nest. Now that is a classy golf group. Congratulations to Joe Allegro— hopefully it won't take another thirty-five years until the next one.

The SFPD Roller Hockey team has rebounded nicely since their disappointing showing in the Police Summer Games back in June. The team (run by Co.E's Chris Knight) captured the Bladium summer league championship on Wed. Sept. 1st when they defeated a team called "the Plague" by a convincing score of 8-2. Stars of the game were Sean Conley (POA attorney) with three goals scored for a "hat trick" and goalie Joe Noto with a fine defensive performance while in the net. "This was a great way to regroup as a

team", said Knight. "Hopefully we will continue to play consistent hockey."

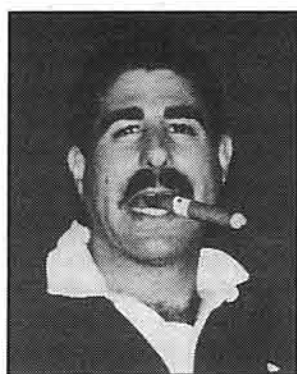
More results from Pasadena back in June include department handball players: Tom McGee (Airport) did very well with a gold medal in the singles/open division while Dave Rios (Co. F) took third place bronze in the same division. In the doubles/open division it was Lou Barberini (TTF) combining with Ed Dullea (Property) for an impressive gold medal while Rios and McGee took a third place bronze. Nice showing by these guys.

In billiards play, the usually successful Marquita Booth didn't fare very well this time around. She played in the 8-ball as well as the 9-ball competition but was stuck matched up with a player who should have been ranked in a higher bracket. Marquita was disappointed with the tournament coordinator as even though he knew of this mistake before the tourney got under way, he didn't correct it. Once again we hear of another

example of the crummy job that was done by Pasadena PD in running the games this year. Hard luck to Marquita and hoping for better things next year in San Bernardino.

In the open style Karate competition, everyone knew about Dennis Martinez (Co. E) and his impressive gold medal in the open light weight fighting division (congrats!). Also out of Co.E was Dave "I'm Vinnie's Partner" Nastari who did well with a silver medal in the open middle weight fighting division as well as a silver in the "kumite" forms division. Jesse "I'm a Raider Fan" Washington competed in the masters (over 40) division and was able to come away with a third place bronze in empty hand forms/soft style as well as a third place bronze in the weapon's division. Once again the department was well represented in the California games. That's all for this month...

So See Ya.....



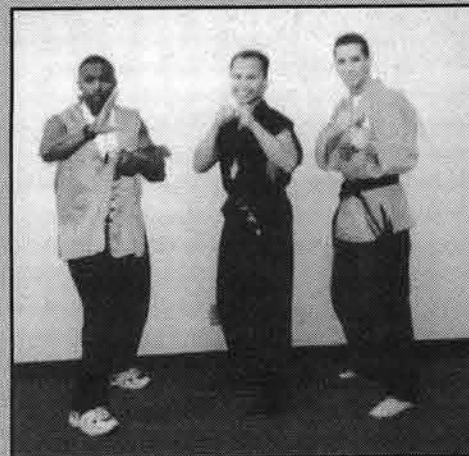
Police Games '99: Karate Results

Staff Report

Jesse Washington, Mission Station, took 3rd Place- Black Belt Forms, and 3rd Place - Black Belt Weapons.

David Nastari, Northern Station, took 2nd Place - Black Belt Kumite (Fighting), and 2nd Place - Black Belt Kata (Forms).

Dennis Martinez, Airport Bureau/K-9, took 1st Place - Black belt Kumite, and is the "Repeat Champion" in the event.



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POA Golf Tournament a Big Success

Staff Report

The POA Golf Tournament was held at the majestic Olympic Club on Monday, August 16, 1999 and raised over \$13,000 for the Community Services Fund.

Many thanks go out to our sponsors and contributors. Without the support of the local business and concerned individuals, we would not be able to enjoy tournaments such as this. Our Association donates many thousands of dollars every year to worthy charities, community projects, and school scholarships. The annual POA Golf Tournament is one of the primary sources of revenue that keeps that vital fund solvent and functioning.

Thanks also goes out to Vice President Gary Delagnes and the Golf Committee that he chairs. The hard work of coordinating the sponsorships, the facility, and the players is something for which we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Of course, we cannot forget the volunteers who donated their time and energy to this project. A special note of appreciation for our volunteers will appear in the next issue of the *Notebook* following the return of Gary Delagnes from vacation. Look for that article in the October *Notebook*, Sports section, along with more snapshots of the event.

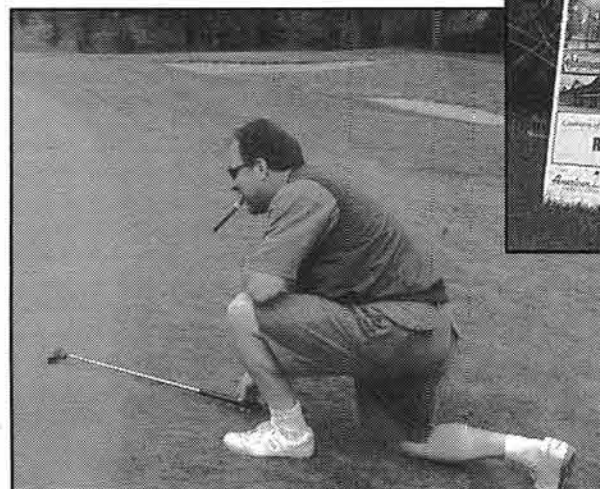
— Editor



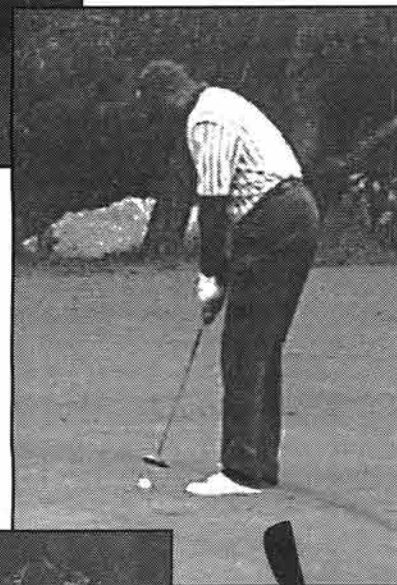
The site: San Francisco's world-renowned Olympic Club. The tournament was played on the prestigious Lake Course.



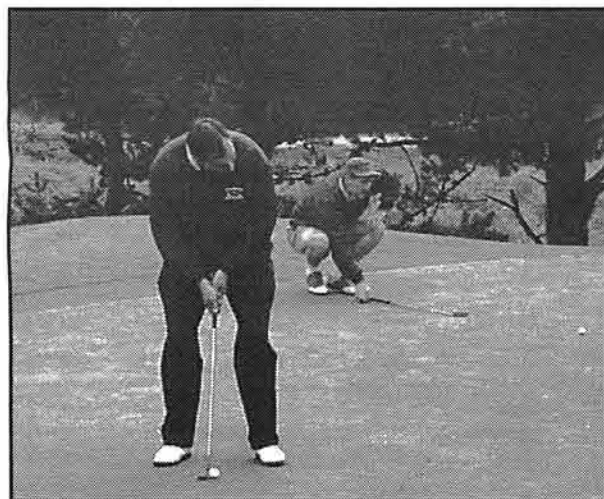
Avid golfer Harry Pearson enjoyed a good day on the links.



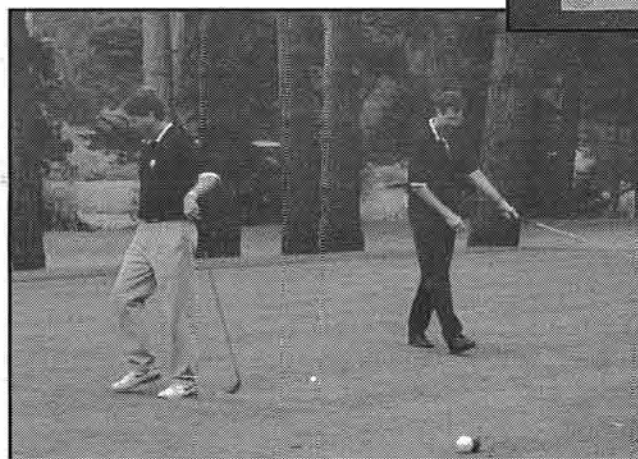
POA Vice President Gary Delagnes lines up a difficult putt.



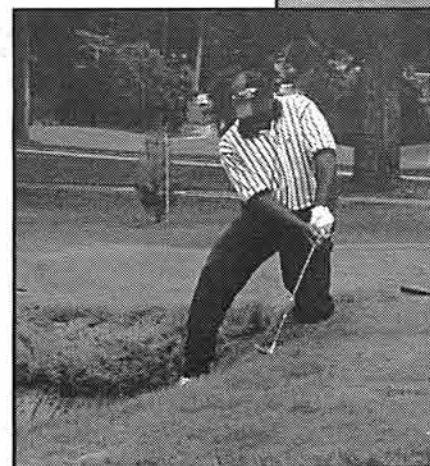
Left and top: Kit Crenshaw digs out of a trap then putts in.



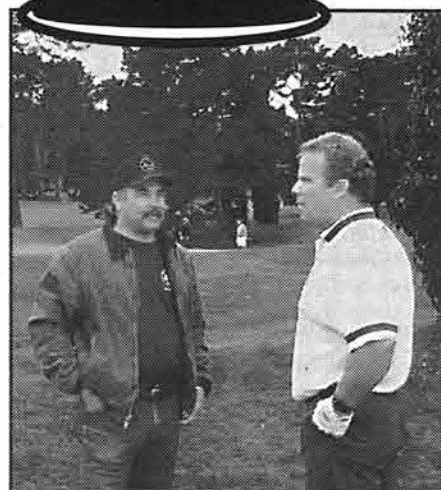
POA President Chris Cunnie lines one up.



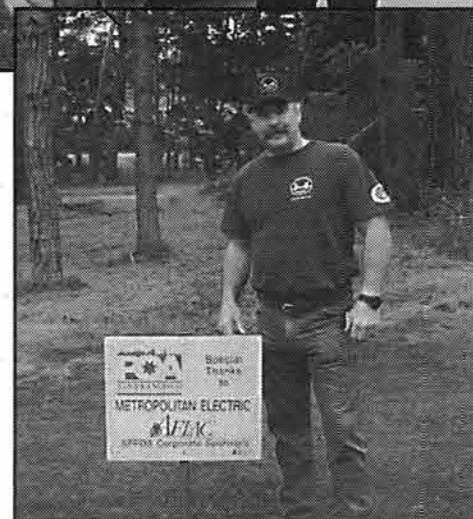
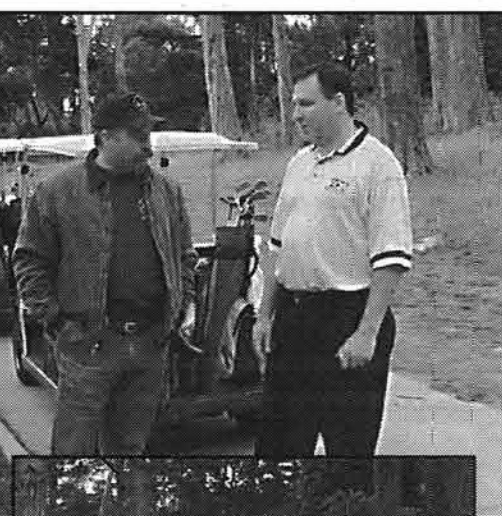
Financial advisors from Aetna had a good day. Gary Bozin (l), and Peter Belardinelli (r).



President Cunnie assures POA Treasurer, Jack Minkel that the association can pay for the tournament.



Golf Committee member, Joe McKenna (r), assures Treasurer Jack Minkel that the association can pay for the tournament.



Treasurer Jack Minkel poses by the sponsor sign of Metropolitan Electric. Jack is taken by this company that he often wears a T-shirt emblazoned with the company logo, as he does in this photo.

The following is a list of our sponsors and contributors. Read the list well, and make every effort to return the favor to these businesses and firms whenever you seek or need any of the products or services in which they offer. Remember. We would not be the benevolent association that we are if it were not for the generosity of the following:

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Plumbers union president Larry Mazzola, Sr. and his son, Larry Mazzola, Jr., pose before the hole sponsored by Local 38.



San Francisco Police Golf Club

It has come to my attention that there are some new members of the Department that are unaware that the S. F. Police Golf Club exists. The club was started in January 1973, and has been active since that time. It's hard to believe that on December 31, 1999 we will have completed 27 years. (Only three more and we can start drawing our retirement check!)

At this time, we have one hundred and sixty-four members. There are seventy-nine active, and eighty-five retired. For the past ten years, it has been about 50/50 between active and retired. I have always said that for the club to survive the membership should always be even between active and retired.

The club is open to all active and retired members of the San Francisco Police Department, regardless of ability. The only thing that is asked is for players to be able to keep up with the other players, and to exercise normal golf courtesy.

We have monthly tournaments at bay area golf courses, and try to have two away trips every year. Usually one of these trips is for members only, and the other (usually to Reno or Tahoe) includes the members spouse if they want. The fees are whatever the golf course charges us plus from \$2 - \$5 extra for a prize fund. We don't give big prizes, as the philosophy of the club is that we are primarily a social group getting together so we can see old friends and have friendly competition.

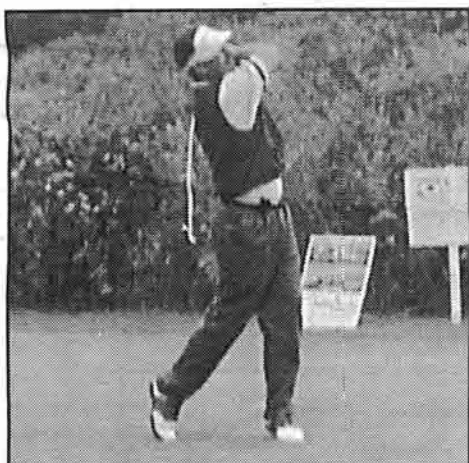
Anyone interested in joining the club can contact either Lt. Larry Minasian at Co B, or me as below. The yearly dues are \$10 which covers all printing and mailing expenses. Make all checks payable to:

S. F. Police Golf Club
Jerry Cassidy
7108 Secret Garden Loop
Roseville, Ca 95747
(916) 771-5927

Below: Co. A's John Schmolke (l), and Joe Finnigan (r) of nearby Taraval Station size up the next long drive.



Joe Moriarty, Director; Firefighters Local 798 and Frank Sullivan, VP of Firefighters Local 798 set their strategy.



Steve Balma, Golf Committee, enjoys the fruits of his labor.



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Close Encounters

By Steve Johnson
POA Secretary

So you leave your family and report to duty on the midnight shift. Two hours later you're placing an individual under arrest for the felonious assault of a victim who's now on his way to the hospital in critical condition. You've asked the subject in custody not once, not twice, but three times if he's got any needles concealed on his person. You tell this individual that if he removes any needles he may have in his possession that there will be no charge, you just want to be safe. The subject is sober, understands your questions, and each time asked he denies any such possession. So you conduct your search and, just as you reach out to remove his jacket, you feel the sting of the needle that has just broken through the skin on your hand. The needle was hidden in the lining of the jacket. Your partner cuts the lining open and the syringe, still filled with the suspect's blood, falls to the floor. You squeeze your hand trying to prevent the blood from the syringe mixing with yours while your partner pulls you to a nearby sink and starts flushing the opening caused by the needle. The suspect apologizes, but it's too late.

The suspect later admits he is HIV positive and has also been infected with Hepatitis C. Hepatitis C destroys the liver. There is no cure for Hepatitis C.

You're rushed to San Francisco General Hospital where you're seen by medical staff and given the option of taking AZT, hoping that, even though the two-week prescription will make you very sick, it just might be worth it. You're at a point where you will do anything that might reduce your chance of contracting HIV especially considering the extent of your exposure to the infected man's blood. But HIV is one problem. There are no antibodies for Hepatitis C.

You'll need to talk to your family and you have no idea what to say because you're now afraid of what the future might bring.

If this scenario occurred maybe one or two times a year it would be considered the exception. However, this is police work in San Francisco, and we have had over 60 police officers exposed to needlesticks in the past year and a half.

We recently convened a meeting of officers who have been exposed to the risk of infection because of the needlesticks they incurred. The meeting was held for the purpose to determine whether/not our Department policies and procedures currently in place are sufficient enough to deal with the trauma associated with these critical incidents. **The members who attended were extremely candid and, while they accepted the risk associated with their job, they also expressed a great deal of concern for the members of their families as well as for the other members of our Department who face this risk on a daily basis.** Thanks to their participation, we now know that there is much to be done to improve the process of protection. We also learned how extremely fortunate we are to have people such as **Officer Mike Cowhig and the members of our Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)** who are always available to counsel officers who need to proceed through the gauntlet of blood-line

testing (i.e. testing the officers blood each month for possible infection).

President Chris Cunnie will be convening a round-table forum involving all of the agencies involved in treating our members as well as reviewing current practices for the purpose of reducing the risk of exposure. We need some answers.

You can run to Treasure Island but you're not gonna hide. A few months ago our members located a murder suspect on Treasure Island and the suspect initiated a shoot-out. The officers, having no cover, bravely returned fire and soon had the suspect in custody. On August 12, 1999, four suspects came out of a parked vehicle at 6th/Market Streets and, after pistol-whipping several people in the area, they started shooting their injured victims with assault rifles. The suspects then jumped back into their car and fled, leaving two innocent citizens with gunshot wounds.

Officers immediately responded to the area, tended to the wounded, set up a perimeter, and gathered witnesses. A preliminary description of the vehicle was issued and **Officer Andrew Cohen and Officer Scott Hurley** located the car traveling east-bound on the Bay Bridge towards Treasure Island. Officers Cohen and Hurley put a felony stop on the vehicle and grabbed two of the heavily armed suspects. The other two occupants of the car ran onto the island.

Canine Units were brought in to assist in the search. **Officer Dan Manning and his dog, Jake**, located one of the suspects hiding in the brush. He was soon joined by **Officer Lance Bosshard and his dog, Kezar**. Once again there was no cover for the officers, and Officer Manning and Officer Bosshard knew full well that they were totally exposed to a suspect who was probably still armed with one of the guns used in the shooting. But the officers had full faith in their partners, Jake and Kezar, and it wasn't long before the cowardly suspect, all 6'2" and 250 lbs of him, decided to surrender. (Kezar did leave a slight imprint on the suspect's lower leg.)

However, the search wasn't over. There were 3 armed suspects in custody and one still outstanding. **Officer Ian Furringer, Officer Jason Sawyer, and Officer Dave Maron** located the fourth suspect, with the able assistance of **Officer Jason Fox**. It seems that Officer Fox commandeered a boat during the search and, after locating the lone outstanding suspect on the shoreline, he lit him up with the boat's spotlight. Like I said, you can run, but don't even try to hide on Treasure Island.

Officer Kirk Edison and Officer Scott Warnke were walking a footbeat in the area of Grove and Buchanan when they attempted to detain an individual. The suspect ran, with both officers in pursuit. Scott and Kirk eventually caught up to the suspect and, during his resistance, the suspect dropped the fully loaded, 9mm semi-automatic he was carrying. A records check turned up pretty much the usual: The suspect was on felony probation for previous weapon violations and he had a long history of assault and narcotic ar-

rests. **But then came the surprise: an outstanding \$500,000.00 warrant issued for the suspect's most recent attempt to murder another person with the same gun that he was carrying when stopped by Officer Edison and Officer Warnke.**

And the guy who robbed the bank in the Richmond District never even got the chance to run. He was picked up a few short minutes after by **Officer William Decarsky, Officer Craig Kuwabara, Officer Lorie Brophy, Officer Edward Chow, Officer RoseMarie Rich, Officer Steve Stocker, and Officer Juanita Stockwell**. The officers not only recovered the robbery suspect, but all the money he took, as well as the threatening note he used. And, once again, a computer check revealed that this suspect was also on felony parole for previous bank robberies.

The Bank of America at Fell and Broderick was robbed by an individual armed with a handgun who had jumped up on the teller's counter and terrorized the employees for brief period. **Officer Mike Huddleston and Officer John Kowal** were alerted by witnesses of the suspect's whereabouts, a building on Presidio Avenue. Mike and John located the suspect inside the building where he was still brandishing the handgun he used in the robbery. The suspect ran up a flight of stairs, but Officer Huddleston and Officer Kowal were right behind him and, at great personal risk, tackled the felon. He was then transported to city prison where he will have a great deal of time to terrorize his fellow inmates none of whom, I'm certain, will be very impressed.

Driving cab in San Francisco can be a risky occupation, but **Officer Chuck Bonnici, Officer Ken Koenig, and Officer Maurice Edwards** recently made the job a little safer after tracking down an individual who robbed a cab driver at Oakdale and Griffith. There was a lot of investigative background work put together by the officers but it paid off when they took the suspect, who was on parole (imagine that), into custody.

Officer Mark Obrochta and Officer Robert Ramos just started work at the Tenderloin Task Force at about 7:00 a.m. when they received a call of a suspicious person acting crazy on the 400 block of Leavenworth. The officers arrived to find the "suspicious person" beating a man with his fists. Mark and Bob pulled the suspect off his victim at which time they noticed numerous puncture wounds on the victim. Turns out the suspect wasn't satisfied with just stabbing his innocent victim enough times to get him rushed to an emergency room, he continued his unprovoked assault with his fists.

Officer Annemarie Bretz and Officer Maria Swann were on a footbeat at Jones and Ellis when they saw a man brutally beating a woman who was on the ground trying to protect herself from the suspect's fists and feet. The two offi-

cers quickly had the suspect in custody, and medical help on the way for the woman going unconscious, when they were alerted of another beating victim a block away. **Officer Teresa Sangiacomo and Officer Chris Musselman** responded to that call. The second victim was also severely beaten. The suspects had used their feet to kick out the victim's front teeth when he was on the ground trying to protect himself. Teresa and Chris obtained an immediate description of the three suspects in the second assault and had it out on the air in a matter of minutes. **Officer Irene Huey and Officer Brian Michaud** captured the three felons attempting to escape a few blocks away. Teamwork, it's a good thing.

Speaking of which, **Officer Tim Buelow** thought he saw a car driving in his district (the Tenderloin Task Force) that had been described earlier in the evening as having been involved in a drive-by shooting. Tim couldn't catch up to it upon first sight, but told **Officer Keith Ybarreta and Officer Hector Basurto** of his observations. As Tim was talking to his compatriots, the suspect vehicle drove right in front of them, north-bound on Leavenworth. Officer Buelow took lead chase, while Officer Ybarreta and Officer Basurto followed. The suspect car had two occupants, but the passenger bailed out halfway up Leavenworth and took off on foot. Keith and Hector stopped and took off after this suspect, while Officer Buelow continued following the driver. The driver of the vehicle couldn't negotiate a high-speed turn at Leavenworth and O'Farrell and smashed into a parked car. The driver came out of the car and Tim ordered him to stop and show his hands. The driver ignored Tim's orders and ran south on Leavenworth with Tim in pursuit. The driver fled into an alleyway and Tim followed. Officer Buelow continued to order the suspect to stop, but he continued to walk down the alley refusing to show his hands. Officer Buelow was now joined by Officer Marina Barron and Sgt. Mark Hernandez. The three officers managed to take the individual, who was suspected of being armed, into custody.

Meanwhile, Officer Ybarreta and Officer Basurto were still in a foot chase after the passenger who had fled the moving car. The suspect they were chasing dove between two parked cars on the east side of Leavenworth, coming up with a gun in his hand. The officers continued to advance on him, weapons drawn, ordering him to relinquish his weapon, but he refused and took off running again. **The officers finally caught up and tackled him. The suspect had been in possession of a loaded, .45 caliber semi-automatic.**

Police work in San Francisco is changing. Although the officers are becoming more technologically proficient, with laptop computers and digital mug shots, the job itself is becoming more dangerous. Members of our Association are not only faced with the increasing danger of armed suspects, they must now worry about needless exposure to communicable diseases. Is there any wonder why it's becoming so difficult to find applicants for the job?