

## President's Message

# When it Hurts to Laugh

By Gary Delagnes,  
SFPOA President

In 1981, my partner and I responded to a call at the notorious Zee Hotel, 141 Eddy Street. We got that run about 3:30 in the morning, and it's one I'll never forget.

I remember walking up to the 3rd floor and coming upon a Cuban transvestite who had just put his arm through a fish bowl while in a drug-induced stupor. I was horror struck by the fact that his right arm was dangling by a thread of bloody tissue, attached to the shoulder only by mutilated sinew.

at all funny. No, I was suddenly struck with one of those imponderable headshakers that we have all experienced at some point in life, wondering where the hell I was, and what the blank I was doing there. It was *me* in *my* situation that that struck me as hilarious. How was it that I – a Jesuit educated, middle-class jock from the Sunset District – had come to find myself standing in a Tenderloin flophouse, in the middle of the night, holding a transvestite's mangled arm in my hand? When did my life make *that* U-turn?

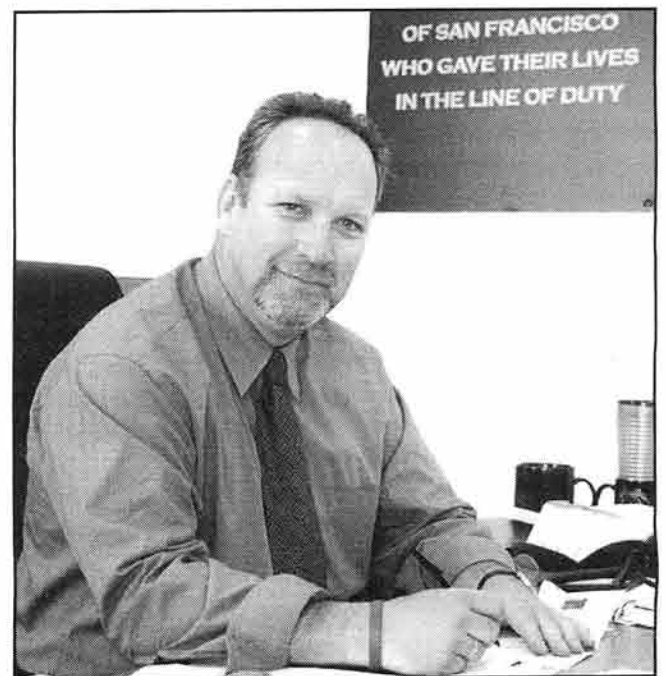
I was experiencing uncommon but natural emotions – the exasperation and sense of the surreal one often feels

ability to cope resulted in suicide.

I will not say that making the Bayview videos was the wisest thing to do, but the purpose behind them is sound and, one can argue, even necessary. The mistake was in assuming that people outside the law enforcement community would enjoy our sense of humor. Fortunately, those that understand the *intent* of the video far outweigh those who have focused only on the satiric content.

I have received hundreds of Emails and letters, 95% of them positive. Many have come from doctors, nurses, hospice workers, firefighters, paramedics, and military people; those who are also subjected to death, injury, and hopelessness on a daily basis, and who know that the only way to go on, the only way to survive and be successful is to learn coping mechanisms that get you through the shift, that allow you to sleep, that allow you to go home and separate that world from the one you must live with your loved ones.

Everyone involved has acknowledged that the videos were not a good idea, and we have emphasized that they were never intended for worldwide publication. However, we have also decried the many over-the-top politicians who have postured on this incident to the detriment of this city's legions of dedicated, profes-



President Gary Delagnes

*"How was it that I – a Jesuit educated, middle-class jock from the Sunset District – had come to find myself standing in a Tenderloin flophouse, in the middle of the night, holding a transvestite's mangled arm in my hand? When did my life make that U-turn?"*

Paramedics arrived, and I was directed to hold the arm in a stable position while they wrapped it for the ride to the hospital. As the paramedics rushed the distressed party down the hallway to the waiting ambulance, the arm became completely severed, and I was holding it in my hand. I called out to the paramedics that they had "forgotten" something. As the dazed tranny looked back and observed his arm displayed in my outstretched hand, he immediately lapsed into unconsciousness.

It was a gruesome scene, but by no means a unique situation. I spent 12 years in the Tenderloin, and experienced many disturbing incidents. All police officers do, and all are confronted with sad and sickening things. Nonetheless, I remember driving around with my partner after that run and suddenly and inexplicably bursting into robust laughter at what we had just experienced. I don't think I can clearly explain that laughing spazz to anyone outside of the profession (As the saying goes, you would of had to have been there...), but I'm going to try.

I was not laughing at the injured person. The guts and gore of it weren't

when working as a cop on the dark periphery of an enlightened society. I was reacting to the incomprehensible, and doing so in a way that I had learned was most effective: just shake it off and have a good laugh, then move on to the next calamitous run.

Now, it appears that the general public just might understand and appreciate the very unique nature of our profession as well. I was relieved to find that much of the public is able to see the "Videogate" melodrama for what it is; an attempt to let off some steam, to laugh at the odd and sometimes bizarre situations in which we often find ourselves. They may not have laughed as hard or as long as others, but they do get it. They know that police officers can't always – indeed, should not – take themselves too seriously. Realistic, seasoned folks know that, on occasion, one must laugh at life.

I am fortunate to be one cop to have developed early in his career an effective method for dealing with the stress and extraordinary folly that is the Human Condition. I have been to many funerals of police officers who were not able to effectively process what they see. Sometimes, that in-

very public X-rated orgies; who ignore public sex activity that takes place at street fairs; or give a wink and a nod to hundreds of naked runners in the Bay to Breakers. These "Civic Leaders" defend such behavior as "Free Speech", constitutional rights, and the quirky uniqueness of San Francisco. Yet, when a few beleaguered police officers make an attempt to spoof themselves and their situation, these same politicians climb high onto their soapbox and assume the moral high ground.

I am grateful to the citizens of San Francisco, and all of those around the country who have expressed their empathy and support. I have a renewed faith in most of the people in San Francisco who understand that you cannot be hypocritical when it comes to freedom of speech.

*"They may not have laughed as hard or as long as others, but they do get it. They know that police officers can't always – indeed, should not – take themselves too seriously. Realistic, seasoned folks know that, on occasion, one must laugh at life."*

sional police officers. These are the same poll-sensitive politicians who look the other way when drag queen nuns offend every devout catholic in San Francisco; who look the other way when for-hire campaign hacks throw

I know what we are up against as police officers, and we will stand united through another politically motivated smear. Stand tall. Each of you knows what kind of person you are, and what kind of officer you strive to be.



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *POA Journal*, 800 Bryant St., 2nd Fl., San Francisco 94103.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA.



Vice President's Message

Police Work: A Vocation, Not a Video Clip

By Kevin Martin

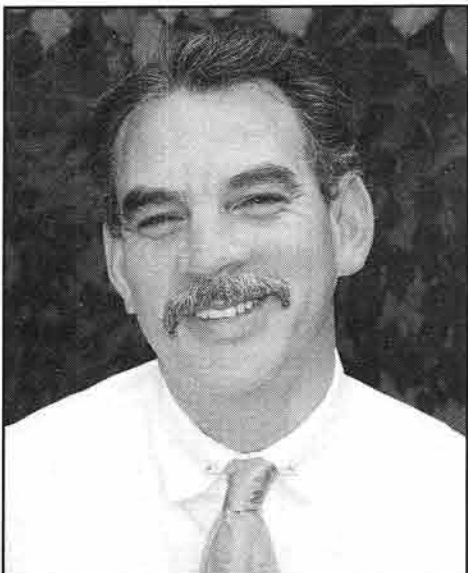
When I was a young boy, I was raised in an environment where certain jobs or professions stood out amongst others, especially in the way of public service or a religious life. These were jobs in which people dedicated themselves to the betterment of others, to improve one's situation, or to enhance our society as a whole. As I grew older and became a little more familiar with people's choices of careers paths and thinking of my own future, I was certain that I wanted to become involved in public service.

I spent a good portion of my youth volunteering at community and religious centers and churches with my parents and family's encouragement along the way. I went to Sacred Heart High School (better known as the "little cop factory on Ellis Street" and was educated by the wonderful and devout Christian Brothers. At one point I was able to narrow my choices

and subsequently was able to realize my dream when I became a member of the S.F.P.D. and was sworn in on July 1,1985.

“...we continue to persevere and remain focused on our task at hand, to protect and serve the people of our city.”

I entered this journey with at least one concept in mind. This job, police work, was now my vocation. In part, Webster defines vocation as “A summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action” and “The special function of an individual



VP Kevin Martin

or group.”

I was very comfortable believing that police work would be the path that would encompass all of the other professions I was to consider. I was particularly drawn to the team concept of police work in that many hands would work together to accomplish a certain task or goal.

Almost twenty-one years later, I still feel very compelled that police work is indeed a vocation and a most noble one at that. I have certainly had my moments of anger, fear and despair but through it all I have tried to keep my focus on service to my fellow man along with my brothers and sisters in blue.

Although there have been several attempts to undermine the great works and intentions of the members of this

department, both individually and as a whole, we continue to persevere and remain focused on our task at hand, to protect and serve the people of our city. It would be so easy to just lay down and go through the motions for ten hours a day and in our minds justify such a response. Fortunately, we don't. We won't allow ourselves to be beaten down by alarmists or worried politicians who at every turn criticize any and everything we do.

There is just no pleasing some people. But please realize that these are the same folks who lack the intestinal fortitude to even consider doing what we do. They don't dare step into the “arena” but quickly and conveniently cast aspersions from a safe distance away having no idea what we do or why in a given situation. I ask the members of this department and association to remain steadfast in their dedication to their profession and vocation. Please do not be undermined by evil forces but remain true to yourself, your partner, and all those you work with. Remain true to all those who have walked in our shoes before us and set the example for those who one day will. Remain true to those citizens who count on and rely on us day in and day out. Remember a kind word or smile to those who are in need of one. It might be a small gesture of kindness but immeasurable in terms of who we are and what we do. It's our vocation.

May God bless us all and may he guide and protect us all through our journey.

Hey! Where's My Paper?

One of the most recurring complaints that I receive is that a member's copy of the POA Journal arrived in the US Mail very late, or not at all. I have explained ad nauseam why the papers may or may not arrive in a timely manner. The delay lies entirely with the United States Postal Service. We mail each issue of the POA Journal using Second Class postage. The USPS rules regarding the timely delivery of Second Class mail allows delivery delays of up to 20 days. We, the POA, have little or no say in the matter. Our only viable alternative would be to use First Class postage – a cost prohibitive remedy.

In order to more readily alleviate a complaint regarding why a particular copy of the POA Journal arrived late, a new feature will appear in each issue of the paper, beginning with this January. Here it is:

Printing and Mailing Dates

- This issue of the POA Journal was printed on December 29, 2005.
- This issue of the POA Journal was delivered into the care and custody of the United States Postal Service on December 30, 2005.
- Some copies of this issue of the POA Journal were delivered to the Mail Room at the Hall of Justice and distributed by hand to stations, units, and details on December 30, 2005.

Ray Shine,  
Editor and Circulation Manager

Run Megan, Run

Sponsor Megan Fahey

I am training for a 1/2 marathon on February 5, 2006, to raise money for Leukemia and other blood cancers. So many people are affected by cancer, this is the least I can do to help. I am running in honor of a friend, Dottie McHugh, who was recently diagnosed with Leukemia.

Any donation will help and, believe me, is going to a great cause! I need to raise at least \$1800.

The donation deadline is January 20, 2006. (See page 26 for details) Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for the following meetings and events by the POA and its friends and supporters. All dates and times are subject to last minute changes, so always contact the event coordinator to confirm dates and times. If you have an event you would like posted on our calendar, contact the editor at journal@sfpoa.org.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings or Events

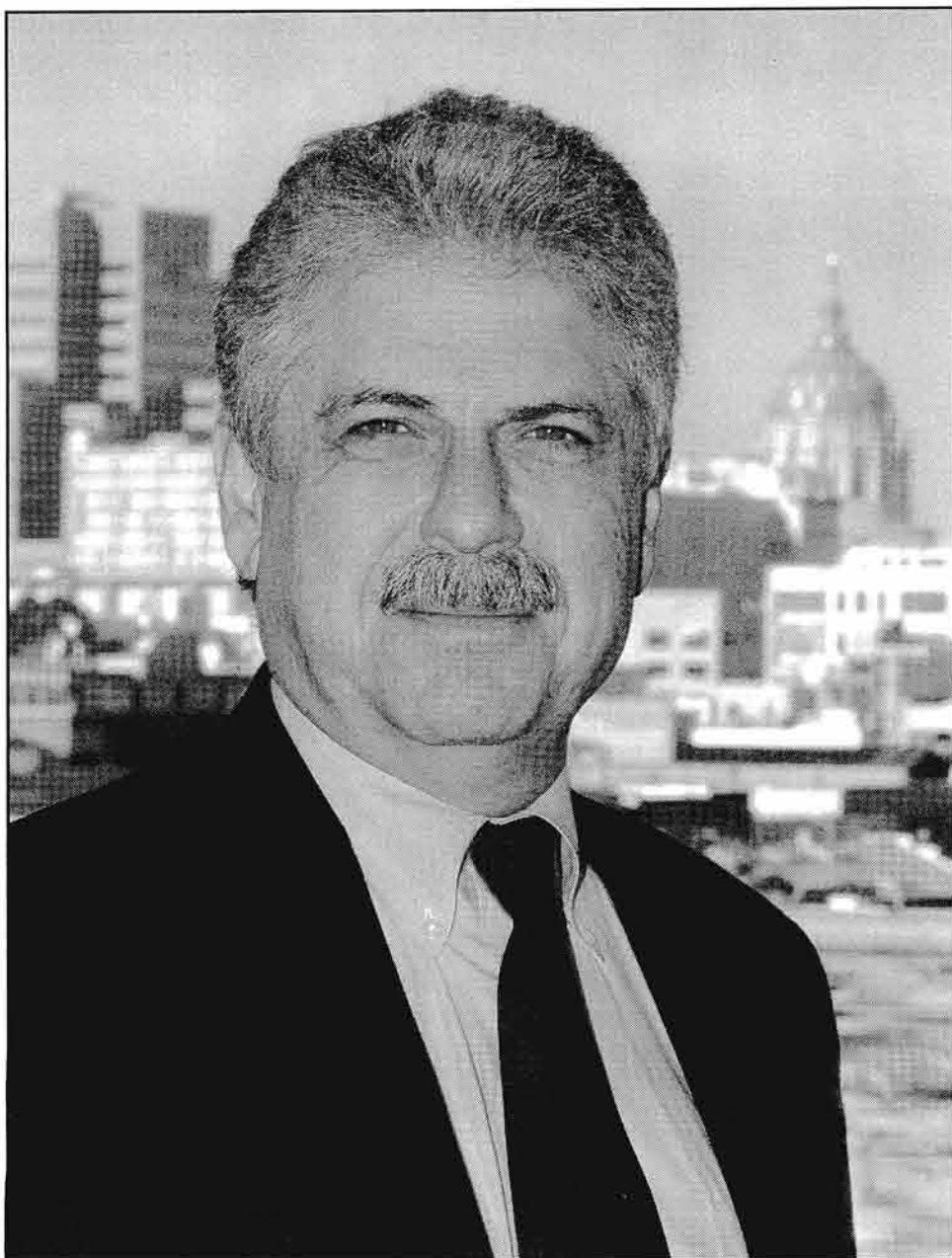
Event	Location	Date & Time	Coordinator
Meeting, Veteran Police Officers Association	3255 Folsom, SF	Second Tues. of Every Month, 11:00 AM	Gale Wright (415) 731-4765
Meeting, Widows & Orphans Aid Association	Ingleside Police Station, Community Rm	Second Tues. of Every Month, 2:00 PM	Mark Hurley (415) 681-3660
POA General Membership Meeting	POA Building	Third Wed. of Every Month, 1:00 PM	POA Office, (415) 861-5060
Meeting, Retired Employees of CCSF	Irish Cultural Center	Second Wed. of Every Month, 1:00 PM	Sara Johnson (415) 681-5949
Retiree Range Re-qualification	SFPD Pistol Range	First Fri. of each Month, 0730-1130	Range Staff (415) 587-2274

Special Events

Foothill Fuzz Retiree Luncheon	Casa Ramos" Mexican Restaurant 6840 Greenleaf Drive, Placerville	Mon., January 9, 2006 11:00 AM	Rene LaPrevotte rlaprevotte@comcast.net
Retirement Dinner – Lum & Cooke	See notice on page 21 for details	Tues., January 17, 2006 6:00 PM	
North Bay Retiree Luncheon	Michele's, 7th/Adams Sts., Santa Rosa, CA	Tues., January 24, 2006 11:00 AM	Al Richterman Email – alandot@sbcglobal.net
Anniversary Party – Jack Giroud	See notice on page 21 for details	Wed., February 1, 2006 5:00 PM	
Yulanda "Yo" Williams 50th Birthday Party/New Orleans PD Charity Fundraiser	Orleans PD Charity Fundraiser Café Cocomo, 650 Indiana St, SF	Fri., February 10, 2006, 6:30 PM	Rcandia_66@msn.com



# January 2006 Inspector of the Month



Inspector **Jeff Levin** has been a member of this Department since 1977. He was promoted to Inspector in 1990 and joined the Arson Task Force in 1998. Since that time, he has successfully investigated crimes such as arson that caused death, arson for financial profit, and firebombing cases. He has been instrumental in obtaining arrests and convictions in high profile cases with well-known victims and suspects and domestic terrorism cases.

In addition to his regular duties as an arson investigator, Inspector Levin is responsible for training the entire unit of the SFFD Bureau of Fire Investigation. He also has been a long-time instructor at the Police Academy.

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WILLS & TRUSTS  
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## WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' AID ASSOCIATION

Dec 13, 2005

The regular meeting of the Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association of the San Francisco Police Department was called to order by President Fred Pardella at 3 PM in the Conference Room at Ingleside Station.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Fred Pardella.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** President Fred Pardella. Vice President Mike Kemmitt. Treasurer Jim Sturken. Secretary Mark Hurley. Trustees Joe Garrity, Matt Gardner, John Centurioni, Dave Fontana and Rene LaPrevotte. Also present was past-President Ray Crosat.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING:** Motion by Gardner, seconded by Rene LaPrevotte that the minutes be approved as published. Motion carried.

**BILLS:** Treasurer Jim Sturken presented the usual bills. Motion by Kemmitt, seconded by Fontana that the bills be paid. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Donation by past President Tom Greene for \$25.00 in memory of Bill Miller. \$60 donation from Irena Zabarakh, Donation of \$500 from Catherine and Rachel Sowell in memory of Dave Sowell for the work of Steve Tachini, Chris Kavale and Dennis O'Leary for their help at Dave's funeral.

### WE HAD TWO DEATHS THIS PAST MONTH:

**ALFRED J. MILEM**, 80 years. Al was born and grew up in Lake Bluff, Illinois. He served his country as a member of the Army during WWII in the European theater. After the war, he moved to San Francisco as was employed as a teamster before entering the Police Academy in 1953. His first assignment was Potrero for six years before going to the Solo's. Al remained on the Bikes for the rest of his career until his retirement in 1979. During his career he was awarded several Captain's Comp's. Also, a Silver Medal of Valor for the rescue of a would-be suicide victim from a PG&E. gas tank. Al was also awarded a Bronze Medal for the disarming and arrest of a suspect who fired shots at a bartender in a crowded tavern.

**TIMOTHY F. CASEY**, 84 years. Tim was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Sunset. He went to Sacred Heart High School and enlisted in the Navy during WWII. He was assigned to the 4th Marine Division to serve as a Navy Corpsman. From then on, he was proudly wearing the Marine uniform and known to his Marines as "Doc." He valiantly served in the invasion of Saipan and Iwo Jima. Upon

his discharge, he returned home and briefly worked as a clerk before entering the Police Academy in 1947. His first assignment was Fixed Post Traffic detail, followed by assignment to Park Station. He went back to Traffic for a few years before going to the Big E. In 1957, he went to the Robbery Detail. He was appointed Asst. Inspector in 1960, and full Inspector in 1964. Tim gave 40 years of service before he decided to hang it up in 1987. Tim was a highly decorated member of the Department. He received a Gold Medal of Valor for the capture of an armed prowler; a Silver Medal of Valor for the disarming and arrest of a robbery suspect; a Bronze Medal of Valor for the arrest of several suspects and the recovery of several weapons and property stolen from Bay Area cities; another Bronze Medal for the arrest of three robbery and murder suspects. He received many Captain's Comp's. He was also known as the Inspector who arrested and cuffed Patty Hearst. Tim was one of a kind, the type of guy you just liked to pass the bull and have a cold Bud with. He was well remembered in his escort to Holy Cross and the Marine Detail that was standing by in Full Dress Blues and Navy bugler for taps. Tim's friends gathered after the service at Molloy's to offer a final "This Bud for you, Tim."

**SUSPENSIONS:** Pursuant to Article III, Section 3, of the by-laws, (did not complete probationary period) Brian Chan and Vickie Mojica. President Pardella ordered them dropped from the rolls. Pursuant to Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution. (Non payment of dues for six months) Terry Huey, Matthew Mattei and Oliver Reich. Pursuant to Section 4 of Article III of the Constitution. (Non-payment of dues for one year.) Ricky Shaddox.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The nominations of officers were closed with the election of President Mike Kemmitt, Vice President Rene LaPrevotte. Treasurer Jim Sturken. Trustees Joe Garrity, John Centurioni and Fred Pardella.

**REPORT OF TRUSTEES:** The trustees had the second reading to raise the dues to \$6.00 per month for the coming year. The motion carried. Bills will be mailed out to retired members in January of 2006. Any questions give me a call at 415.681.3660. The Officers and Trustees met at 5 PM at Wells Fargo Bank. In the first month with our account we saw a \$245,000.00 profit. We are currently setting up our Asset Allocation and will be working on this for the next several months. The bank is doing other things for us that will reflect on our total worth.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Fred Pardella had a moment of silence for our departed members and for those of our military serving their country. He set the next meeting for Tuesday January 10, 2006 at 2 PM in the Conference Room at Ingleside Station. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Fraternally,  
Mark Hurley, Secretary

## INCOME TAX!

**Duane Collins**  
(SFPD Retired)

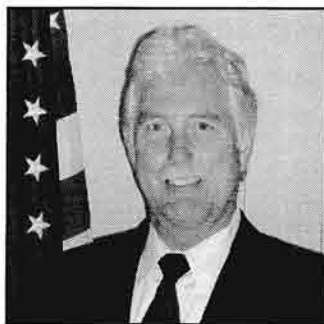
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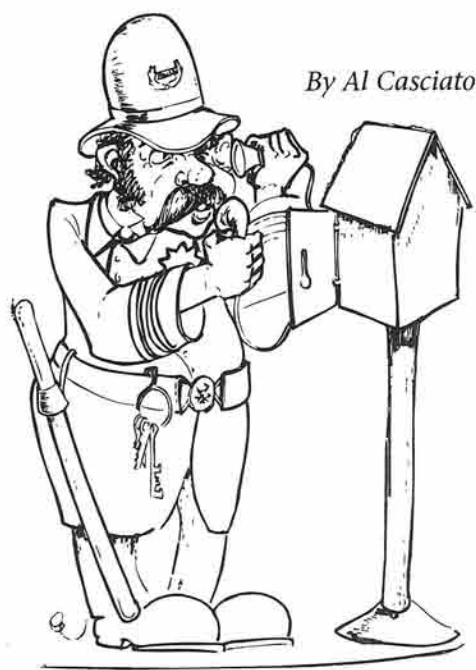
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## AROUND THE DEPARTMENT



By Al Casciato

### ...Retirement Board Election:

Ballots for this year's Retirement Board election were mailed out December 26th. Be sure to return your ballot as soon as possible. We encourage you to vote for firefighter **Joe Driscoll**, the current incumbent. Joe not only has our POA endorsement but also my personal endorsement as my fellow board member. See article by **Mike Hebel** in this edition...

### Birth:

**Mike and Peg Deely** (Tenderloin Station) proudly announce the birth of their fifth child **Seamus Michael**, 8lbs, 8ozs, 21 inches born November 8, 2005 at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. In the current generation of the Deely family Seamus is number 15. Besides his 10 cousins his immediate siblings are **Justina**, 10; **Jack**, 5; **Patrick**, almost 4; and **Mary Claire**, almost 2. Congratulations to all...

### ...Wedding Bells:

**Sean Dennis** (Park Station) married the lovely **Rhonda Gager** on October 10, 2005. Retired Inspector **Ed Dennis** reports that the family is thrilled that Rhonda has joined their family. We wish the newlyweds all the best...

### ...Big Thank You:

A big thank you is in order for **Pat Kennedy** (Northern Station) and **Mike Nevin** (Southern) Station for coordinating the 2nd Annual Troop Drive in concert with the Mothers of Military Service Members (MOMS). The drive ended December 21st but monetary donations are still being collected. Checks can be sent to American Legion POST 21 PO Box 281, Santa Rosa Ca 95420. Be sure to write MOMS in the memo section...

### ...American Legion:

POST 456 is the American Legion POST for all active and retired public safety officers representing city, state and federal agencies operating in San Francisco County. All eligible veterans are encouraged to join and can do so by contacting Captain **Greg Corrales** at 415-553-9601 or sending an e-mail care of this column...

### ...1906 Earthquake Centennial:

The Centennial of the 1906 earthquake will take place on April 18. Many events commemorating the anniversary are being planned. Members interested in participating in one or more venues should contact Inspector **Liane Corrales** (Juvenile/Police Museum) at 415-558-5500...

### ...Crime Lab:

Did you know? That there are 4000 crime labs worldwide of which 2000 are in the United States. Of the 4000 only 312 are accredited and the San Francisco lab is one of the 312. Something to be very proud of...

### ...Invitation:

**Glenn Sylvester** (Investigations) has invited everyone who is a member of the Credit Union to a free breakfast the morning of February 25th at the Spanish Cultural Center located at 2850 Alemany Blvd. in San Francisco. Glenn reminds our editor, **Ray Shine**, that the occasion is the Annual Meeting of the Credit Union membership where board members are elected. Glenn advises that he has submitted his name for nomination to the board...

### ...Long Term Care:

Cal PERS Long Term Care Program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. It is the single largest provider of long term care coverage in the state of California. All public employees/retirees and their families are eligible to apply for this coverage. To obtain a packet of information call: 916-326-3900 or e-mail, [oltc@calpers.ca.gov](mailto:oltc@calpers.ca.gov)...

### ...New Year:

As we enter the New Year many challenges await us in '06. We now begin in earnest to prepare for the negotiations which will define our next contract. We look to the November ballot and will try to decide exactly what benefit enhancement or which candidate or charter change(s) we will support or oppose. We will have a busy year but like any other year the success or failure of the POA rests in the hands of the membership. A membership that stays informed and participates when needed...

Announcements, notices or tidbits can be e-mailed to [alfrmsf@aol.com](mailto:alfrmsf@aol.com), faxed to 552-5741, or mailed to *Around the Department*, 800 Bryant St., 2nd Floor, SF, CA 94103.

## December Blood Drive Highlights

By Mark Hawthorne,  
Chair

I want to express my thanks to all who participated in the San Francisco Police Department Blood drive held December 7, 2005. The selfless act of donating a pint of blood for those in need demonstrates the commitment to the community of many of our officers and associates. One does not often think about the impact one pint of blood can have in saving a life, or aiding the injured. Of all the undertakings by members and associates of the police department, the donation of blood can be placed high on the list of helping the community. Again thank you very much to those of you who participated.

Beginning next year, 2006, the Blood Committee will be scheduling four blood drives, adding one more opportunity for members to donate. The dates are, **March 29, July 26, October 4, and December 13**. The hours will be 1100-2000. All dates fall on Wednesdays to provide a greater opportunity for members to attend.

So mark your calendars and plan to participate.

Remember there is no substitute for blood. Also keep in mind, one must have sufficient iron, and one must not have received any tattoos within the previous year. There are also other restrictions that may prevent donations such as traveling to certain areas outside the United States, or currently taking certain medications. If you have a question, you can ask if you are eligible to donate.

As always, the atmosphere at the blood drives is festive and members have an opportunity to re-acquaint themselves with other members. To give you a heads up, for the March blood drive, a barbecue is in the planning stages.

We look forward to seeing you at the drives, and don't forget to tell a friend and bring them with you. As an aside, during the December drive, we had three first time donors. They did well and ensured us they would return to donate again. To say thanks to those who participated in the December blood drive, the list follows.

Anzore, Edward	Fleischer, Vera	Nakanishi, Rod
Badami, Maitreya	Flynn, Mike	Newland, Tom
Barbero, Martin	Fogarty, George	Nieman, Ken
Barnes, Robert	Forrester, Jennifer	Noto, Joe
Bosshard, Stephen	Fung, Robert	O'Rourke, John
Boyd, Brian	Gallegos, Mike	Oberzeir, Tim
Braden, Deborah	Gan, Terry	Ohtaki, Peter
Braun, Molly	Gin, Robert	Ossio, Pablo
Bucy, Stephen	Green, Tracy	Pagano, Renee
Callaghan, Dennis	Greenfield, Ben	Parry, Rick
Carrington, George	Hanley, Matt	Pena, Jesus
Cashman, Kevin	Hawthorne, Mark	Pon, Jameson
Cato, Toni	Huegle, Bob	Quinn, Dennis
Christie, Stephen	Java, Cliff	Ratto, Steven
Ciriaco, Maria	Kanamori, Kiyotaka	Reilly, Joe
Cleary, Michael	Keane, John	Rodrigues, Angela
Coloyan, Karen	Knight, Chris	Siebert, William
Conway, John	Knoble, Kevin	Seim, Jim
Dalton, Timothy	Lai, Keith	Sempelsz-Wick, Patty
D'Amico, Maureen	Lew, Calvin	Smith, Wayne
Daubenmire, Colleen	Linehan, Patty	Solomon, Mark
Delaney, Kyra	Machi, Mario	Spears, Michelle
Dito, Martin	Mahoney, Dan	Tacchini, Stephen
Dutra, Lori	Mannix, Ann	Tobin, Pat
Dwyer, John	Matthews, Robin	Vargas, Rey
Ehrlich, John	Mathias, Steven	Way, Marty
Elias, Raul	Maunu, Melvin	Wing, Roland
Farmer, Doug	McPherson, Kevin	Wismer, Earl
Farrelly, Tim	Minasian, Larry	Yesitis, Mark
Figone, Donna	Montero, Mike	Yick, Richard

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BUICK



# Thank you, Supervisor Dufty

Dear President Delagnes

On Friday December 9, 2005, I was reviewing the December 13, 2005 Agenda for the Board of Supervisors I noted Item 38:

"[Expressing best wishes to Eric Batchelder for a successful recovery and commending his dedication and courage as a member of the San Francisco Police Department.] Supervisor Dufty"

(A copy of the full resolution is enclosed.)

I sent Supervisor Dufty an email and expressed my personal appreciation for his gesture. Supervisor Dufty responded to me and explained that he was the Acting Mayor at the time of the accident. Supervisor Dufty visited Officer Batchelder on two separate occasions after the accident. Supervisor Dufty even brought the HRD Director along to insure that Officer Batchelder had a personal contact during his rehabilitation. Supervisor Dufty plans on presenting Officer Batchelder a copy of the resolution signed by his colleagues.

The membership should take heart in the fact that there are members, like Supervisor Dufty, in the City Government that appreciate the difficult job of the SFPD, and that there is a concern for the welfare of its members.

Sincerely,  
Thomas P. O'Neill  
Commanding Officer  
Support Services Division  
San Francisco Police Department

Email -  
From: Tom O'Neill  
To: Supervisor Dufty  
Date: 12/09/2005  
Subject: Ofc Batchelder Resolution

Dear Supervisor Dufty:  
On the Board's web site I came across the Resolution that you intro-

duced expressing best wishes to Ofc Batchelder. Thank you, it was most thoughtful. And while I don't know the young officer personally, I do know that it was a traumatic injury that will severely impact his career. I have forwarded a copy of the Resolution through the Command Staff and recommending that a copy be provided to the officer.

My very best regards and Happy Holidays to you.

Thomas P. O'Neill, Captain  
Support Services Division -  
Commanding  
San Francisco Police Department

To: Tom O'Neill  
From: Bevan Dufty, Supervisor  
City and County of San Francisco  
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2005  
Subject: Re: Ofc Batchelder Resolution

Tom  
I very much appreciate your e-mail.  
During and immediately after Eric's accident, I served as Acting Mayor and twice visited him and his amazing family at SFGH.

Once the resolution is adopted Tuesday, I will prepare a formal copy signed by my colleagues to bring to him.

I was trying to coordinate a visit with Mayor Newsom, who already wrote him personally. I was at a conference Friday and Saturday out of town, so the Mayor's visit may have occurred. If not, hopefully we can go early this week.

My staff and I will keep you posted.

There was a story last week in the Chronicle, as I brought with me HRD Director Phil Ginsburg so that Eric has a personal contact on the long, difficult road he faces in terms

of rehabilitation. I can tell you that on both visits Eric expressed a desire to come back fully as a Police Officer. And I believe that the combination of his character and prosthetic technology may enable him to achieve something remarkable.

If there is anything you feel I can do, please let me know. From the moment I met Eric, he has inspired me and given me motivation to work harder and have perspective on what's important in life.

Bevan Supervisor Bevan Dufty



Resolution expressing best wishes to Eric Batchelder for a successful recovery and commending his dedication and courage as a member of the San Francisco Police Department.

WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder has been an outstanding member of the San Francisco Police Department for the past five years; and  
WHEREAS, on Sunday November 27th, 2005, Eric Batchelder was struck while riding his motorcycle by a motorist while traveling from San Francisco's Mission Police Station to San Francisco's Bayview Police Station; and,  
WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder sustained severe injuries; and,  
WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder's Father, is a retired Member of the Walnut Creek Police Department and his younger brother, David, is an Officer at Bayview Station;  
WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder's Family, Friends, and Colleagues from the San Francisco Police Department and San Francisco Police Officers Association have been a tremendous source of support and comforting physical presence at San Francisco General Hospital;  
WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder has remained in positive spirits despite this terrible tragedy and looks forward to rehabilitation and recovery leading to rejoining the San Francisco Police Department; and  
WHEREAS, Eric. Batchelder has received the finest care from the dedicated Doctors, Nurses and Staff at San Francisco General Hospital; and,  
WHEREAS, Eric Batchelder loves being a part of the San Francisco Police Department and protecting and serving the people of San Francisco; now, therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors commends Eric Batchelder for courage and character in the face of adversity and extends best wishes for his recovery and return.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty  
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# Report of Monthly Meeting with Deputy Chief Shinn

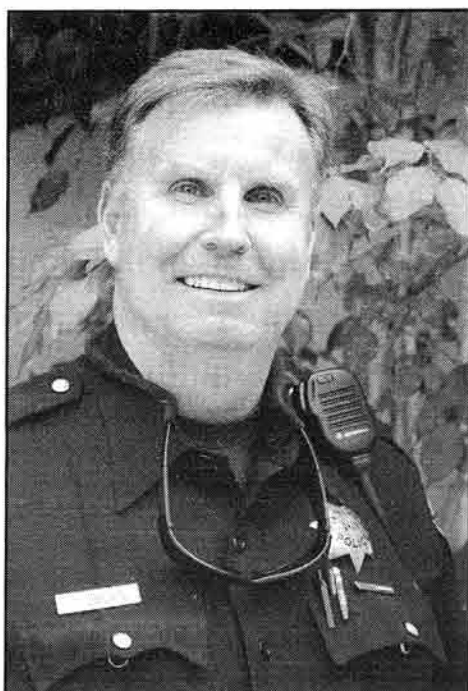
By Chris Breen, Chair  
POA Patrol Committee

On Thursday, November 10th, I met with Deputy Chief Dave Shinn, Field Operations Bureau, to discuss issues that specifically affect the Patrol Bureau. As usual, The Deputy Chief was straightforward in his answers, even on those matters that didn't have a favorable outlook for members in Patrol.

The most prevalent concern among those in Patrol remains the need to staff patrol car sectors before staffing other beats or special details. Hardly a day goes by in which I'm not approached by an officer or a sergeant expressing his or her concern over the fact that certain details are being staffed before the sector cars. As a result, an officer safety problem is being created. The Deputy Chief was unaware of this situation and he assured me that he would speak to all the district station captains to make sure this practice comes to an end.

*The most prevalent concern among those in Patrol remains the need to staff patrol car sectors before staffing other beats or special details.*

A problem that continues to adversely affect Patrol is the policy that requires an officer to guard injured or sick prisoner(s) at Mission Emergency Hospital until being medically cleared by a doctor. The Deputy Chief is well aware of the wasted patrol time that goes into standing by at MEH, in many cases for several hours. D/C Shinn has been in discussions with Sheriff Hennessey in order to have the burden taken off our shoulders, and shifted to the Sheriff's Department, where most of us believe it belongs. As always, the stumbling block in shifting that responsibility comes down to money. The Deputy Sheriffs union would love to take over that responsibility of providing MEH prisoner security, and has expressed that to Sheriff Hennessey. I believe we have made some headway on this issue, and I will keep you updated. Until the responsibility



Patrol Committee Chair Chris Breen

is shifted, D/C Shinn wanted me to remind all officers that we have the responsibility to guard our prisoners at MER. In the event that we have to take a "personal necessity" break, it is permissible to ask a sheriff deputy to temporarily guard a prisoner. With that being said, there is no obligation on their part to honor such requests.

Deputy Chief Shinn and I talked extensively about the misconception that many officers have regarding the loss of an officers' driving privileges after he or she is involved in a traffic collision. Many officers are of the belief that, regardless of whether they are number one or number two in the accident, they automatically lose their driving privileges for five days. According to D/C Shinn, the determining factor as to whether the officer loses his or her driving privilege rests with the captain's cover report, which will often times assign a certain degree of responsibility to the officer. If an officer is rear-ended by a deuce, for example, obviously the officer has no degree of responsibility, so consequently they can continue driving a Department vehicle.

One of the ideas that the Patrol Committee had was the creation of a Night Traffic Court. Officers working Midnights certainly don't want to go to traffic court at 1300 hours, after only four hours sleep. In order to remedy this situation, it has been suggested that the Department, in cooperation with the Traffic Commissioners, create a traffic court that starts at 1800 hours. D/C Shinn said that he would speak with Captain Keohane, Legal Division, about that possibility.

The new "On-Line" reporting system has received positive reviews

during the early going. Starting next month, the Department is going to post on-line how complaints and incidents are assigned a dispatch code A, B or C and then given out to officers for response. By explaining the process, it is hoped that people will have a better understanding as to why officers sometimes have a one-hour response time on a low priority call for service. Also, D/C Shinn asked me to remind officers that when they are dispatched to take a report, they are to do so, and not recommend that the citizen use the "On-Line" reporting system.

The new Report Management System (RMS) is expected to be on-line either in February or March of next year. This new system, which is expected to be the biggest technological break-through in the Department in the past 35 years, will have features that will benefit officers in patrol from the inception. The new system will interface with CAD; be equipped with a much more advanced search engine for the intranet and provide a more efficient report writing system. These new advances will finally bring us into the 21st century.

The new touch-screen MVT's have been installed in 45 patrol vehicles up to this point, with the Department anticipating installing another 55 within the next few months. Ultimately, the Department would like to install all the new patrol vehicles, wagons and

"35" cars with these computers. The Department is able to accomplish this task by securing a \$500,000 federal grant.

I have long heard complaints from patrol officers that the Department should re-assign to district stations all able-bodied personnel who currently have desk jobs in the Hall of Justice. As a way of addressing this issue, the Department has hired four new civilian employees to work at MIS, with the expectation of hiring eight additional employees in the next fiscal year. This new policy will allow several officers, who are currently working in technical positions, to return to patrol.

I expect to make a presentation to the Police Commission regarding officers being given the option of carrying the either the wood or Manadnok baton. Only bicycle officers currently carry the Manadnok baton, which is always accessible to them because it is attached to their gun belts.

I am currently working with Deputy Chief Shinn on the possibly of expanding the number of street survival classes being offered to patrol officers. In addition, I have suggested that each officer in patrol be issued a computer disc with the various report masks, so that officers will be able to keep track of their own reports. I will keep everybody informed regarding these issues.

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## National Law Enforcement Recognition Programs

# Looking Beyond the License Plate

By Captain Greg Corrales  
Commanding Officer  
Traffic Company

"Looking Beyond the License Plate" is a national law enforcement program that recognizes officers for observations of license plates that led to the arrests of fugitives and suspects wanted for a wide range of crimes. The national award program is designed to recognize law enforcement officers whose alertness and keen observation led to the arrest of a suspect or the solution of a crime.

1. All entries must be based on license plate observations by duly sworn law enforcement officers.

2. All entries in the 2005-2006 award program must be based on

license plate observations occurring between June 1, 2005 and June 1, 2006.

### Judging Criteria:

1. Entry based on observation of license plate is key (initial) element in the incident;

2. Thorough and professional police work by the officer to solve crime or to make an arrest stemming from license plate observation;

3. Resulting benefit to the community, law enforcement, public and highway safety;

4. Element of danger or risk to officer, citizens and crime victims.

### Looking Beyond the Traffic Stop

This national award program recognizes law enforcement officers whose traffic stop led to the arrest of a suspect or the solution of a crime. The Looking Beyond the Traffic Stop program is designed to substantiate and document the importance of traffic stops as law enforcement tools. Approximately seventy percent of all serious crime involves a motor vehicle, and this program demonstrates to the public that traffic stops are critical crime fighting tools used to track and identify these offenders.

Moreover, this award program validates and promotes the dedication and initiative of officers whose daily efforts ensure the effectiveness of our nation's law enforcement system. Officers sub-

mitting entries will be recognized for their diligent work. Judging for this award is very similar to the judging for the "Looking Beyond the License Plate" award.

Those officers that make superlative arrests which begin with the observation of a license plate, or with a traffic stop, should send a copy of the incident report, and any other pertinent information, to Captain Greg Corrales, Commanding Officer of the Traffic Company. Any reports between June 1, 2005 and June 1, 2006 that recount that sterling arrest should be forwarded. You cannot win if you don't apply, so send those reports to me. I have a pretty good track record of obtaining awards for those that deserve them.

## Ultimate Justice for Cop Killers

The following commentary and opinion was originally published in the San Francisco Chronicle on Tuesday, November 22, 2005. It is reprinted here at the request of Greg Corrales. — Ed.

By Dionne Niemi

I awoke Friday to my clock radio telling me that another police officer, Andy Stevens of the California Highway Patrol, was killed in the line of duty. It brought back the sound of my doorbell ringing at 1 a.m., just over three and a half months ago. As I looked through the glass panes of my front door, I saw three close friends - still in their uniforms - waiting to tell me something no police wife ever thinks she will hear.

My heart was shattered that day, and even though police caught my husband's killer, who may get the death penalty if convicted, I don't think anything can make this right. What form of justice could change the fact that my 7-year-old daughter will never see her daddy again? What could possibly make it easier for my mother-in-law to bury her firstborn son? Of course, the answer is "nothing," but it doesn't mean that nothing short of the ultimate penalty should be given to cop killers, or that they should be viewed the same as people who murder civilians. My position is not that an individual officer's life is more valuable than a civilian's; it has more to do with the role of law enforcement in society overall.

Police officers do what most of us couldn't imagine - they stand between those who obey our laws and those who don't. It is often dangerous and ugly, but officers do it anyway, for the good of society. Being a cop isn't just

what people do for a living; it's who they are. If we didn't have them, all the laws in the world would be meaningless.

Handing down the ultimate penalty to someone who has nothing but contempt and hatred for the main stabilizing factor in a society should not be viewed as evil or hypocritical - it's just self-preservation. I know not everyone supports the death penalty, and that is their right. However, giving the death penalty to cop killers is simply an example of a decent society standing in solidarity against the forces who would love to see it collapse.

My husband was born for this job, and he loved it every single day of the three years he wore that uniform. Even as I write this, through a waterfall of tears, it's hard to have regrets about him living his dream. Sometimes those regrets come a little easier when I watch my daughter cling to a teddy bear made from her daddy's uniform shirt, but that's the personal side of this issue.

Whether to assign the death penalty in the case of a cop killing should not be decided on the basis of how many children he left behind or how much the crime impacted the officer's family. An unmarried officer with little or no family to speak of is equally important to the fabric of our law-enforcement community as an officer with many children and tons of close relatives. The loss is the same; it affects us all, and it should be equally condemned by us all.

Dionne Niemi is the widow of San Leandro police Officer Nels "Dan" Niemi, who was shot and killed in San Leandro July 25, 2005. Alameda County prosecutors said last month that they will seek the death penalty in the case.



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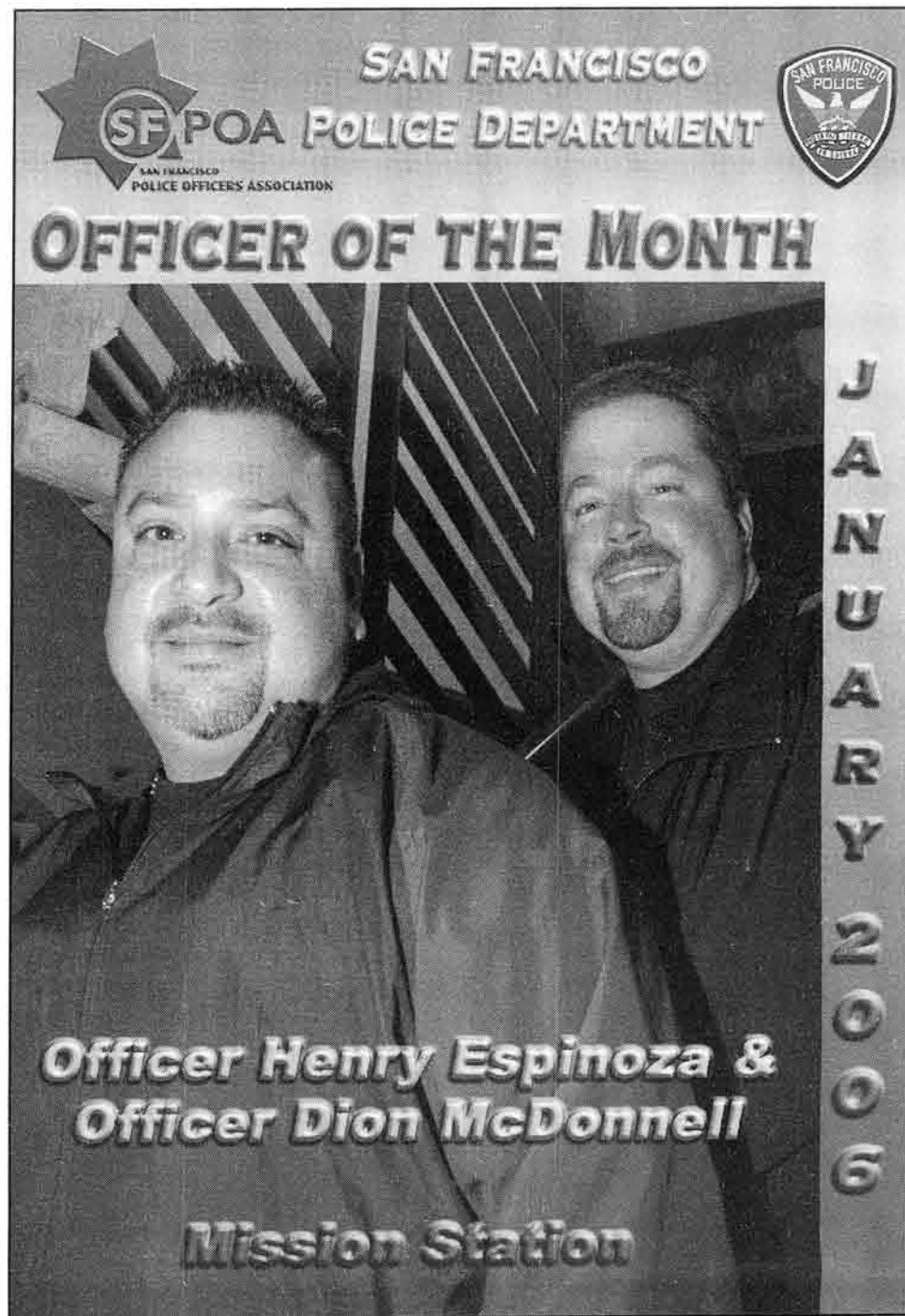
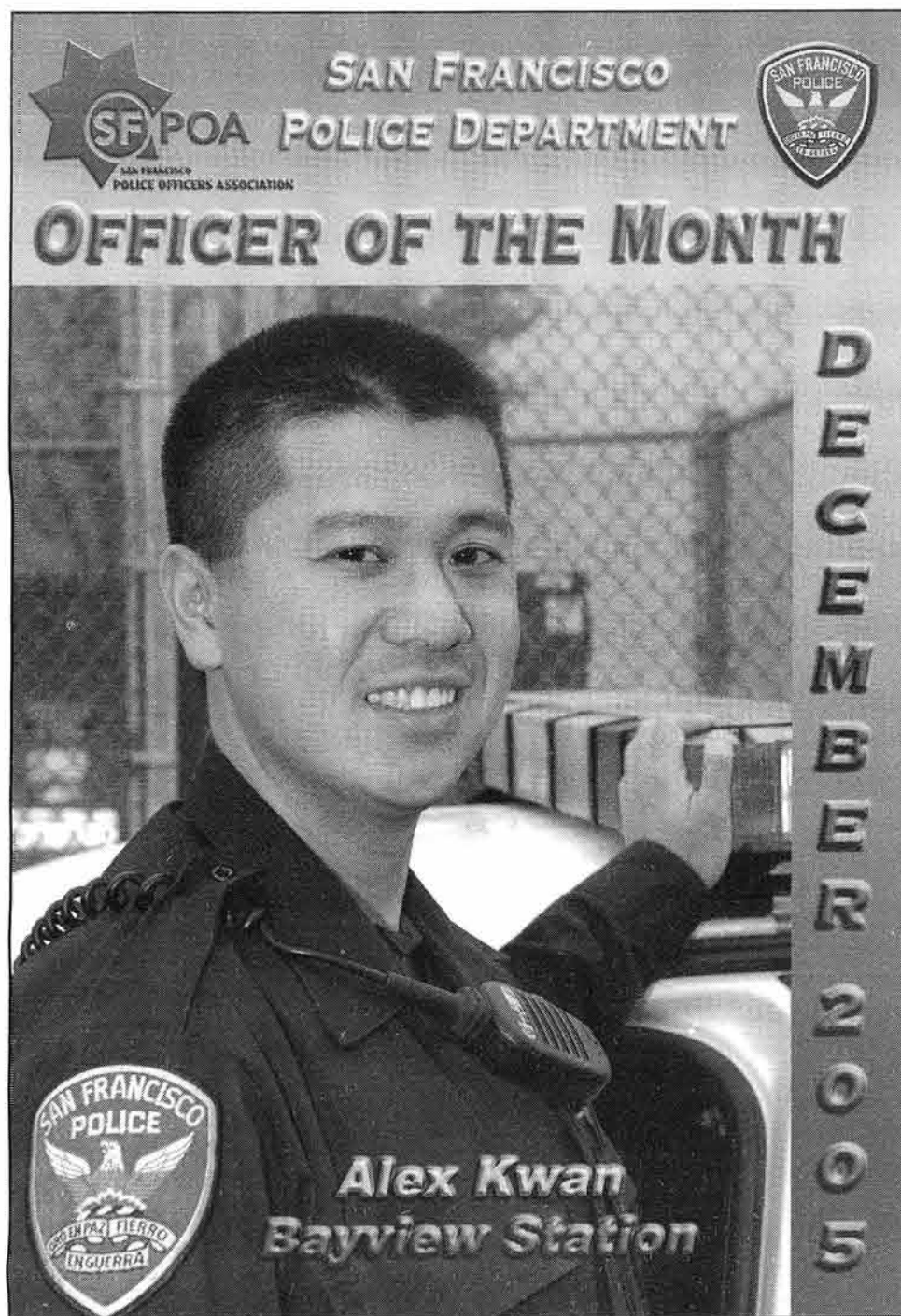
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## Patrol Officers of the Month



COLLAGES BY MOONEY AND HICKS

By Ray Shine,  
Editor

Seeking to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of San Francisco police officers, Police Chief Heather Fong established the San Francisco Police Department's Officer of the Month, a program that recognizes individuals who personify the admirable qualities common in all of San Francisco's finest.

The selection of a single officer, or team of officers, for this honor will prove to be an unenviable task. It will, after all, be very difficult to single out one or two officers from among so many, all of whom are as focused on their duty; every one as unassuming as

the next; all as worthy and deserving.

The San Francisco Police Officers Association applauds Chief Fong and the Administration for recognizing the officers who proudly serve this city.

The Association also congratulates Officer Alex Kwan of Bayview Station for being chosen as the December 2005 Officer of the Month; and Officers Henry Espinoza and Dion McDonnell of Mission Station, January 2006 Officers of the Month. As with all such honorees, the selection of Alex, Henry and Dion serves to exemplify the strength of character, compassion, and commitment to community that is embodied in all of the men and women of the SFPD.

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# CCSF Retirement System Wins Award For Excellence

## Executive Director Clare Murphy Honored

By Mike Hebel,  
Welfare Officer

On October 19, 2005, at the Metropolitan Club in New York City, Clare Murphy was awarded the Institutional Investor's prestigious 2005 Award for Excellence in Investment Management for Public Funds. Ms. Murphy, Executive Director of our retirement system (SFERS) since 1985, was selected from amongst hundreds of public funds (state and municipal) for this recognition. She rightly deserves credit with transforming an under funded public pension plan into one of the few public retirement systems that is over funded.

Ms. Murphy appeared on the cover of *Institutional Investor's* August 2005 publication. She and the CCSF Retirement System were the subject of its lead article entitled "Murphy's Law – How San Francisco's Pension Fund Managers Built a Soaring Surplus."

### CCSF Retirement System: A Stellar Performer

A survey by Wilshire Associates of 64 state retirement systems found that just 16%, or 10 plans, were fully funded or over funded on a market value basis as of June 30, 2004. The funding ratio of the SFERS Plan, which provides or will provide retirement benefits to 51,000 police officers, firefighters, and city and county employees, was 109% funded, far above the median ratio of 83% for state plans.

The *Institutional Investor* lead story attributed the SFERS success to: "credit restrained benefits, a savvy hands-on-board and a history of innovative investment strategies that have enabled the fund to earn an average annual 10.27% for the 10 years ended March 31, 2005. That compares with a 9.49% median for public funds with assets greater than \$1 billion according to Wilshire data, placing SFERS in top quartile of the Wilshire ranking."

Our retirement system has been near the top of the public pension system heap for a long time. SFERS has repeatedly lead its peers into new asset classes, leaping into real estate in 1978, venture capital in 1987, and emerging market debt in 1996. Our system has truly been open and receptive to new investment ideas.

### Clare Murphy – A Steady Hand and Guiding Influence

Clare Murphy is the oldest of 11 children. She grew up in Glenn Park. Her father, Cornelius, worked for CCSF as a data processor; her grandfather operated a trolley on Geary Street. Five of her brothers and sisters worked for the CCSF while two others work for the States of California and Oregon.

Ms. Murphy attended Catholic schools, earned a scholarship to the University of San Francisco where she

was awarded a BA in Political Science in 1971, and graduated from Georgetown University in 1973 with a Masters Degree in Government. Since her graduation from Georgetown, her sole employer has been the SF Employees' Retirement System. She began as a Project Manager, became an Assistant to the Executive Director, served as the Staff Actuary, and finally, in 1985 became its Executive Director.

Clare Murphy is a volunteer for the SF Bay Area Girl Scouts Council and serves on its Finance and Investment Committees. She serves on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco – Cork, Ireland Sister City Committee. She also serves on the Robert Tiogo Foundation's Board, which is committed to increasing opportunities for minority MBA candidates in the financial services field.

Ms. Murphy oversees all SFERS operations, including investment strategy, benefits administration and personnel matters. She directs a staff of 77. Clare Murphy is well respected at the SF Board of Supervisors. She is a straight shooter who fiercely guards the integrity and fiscal prudence of the SFERS. She considers the system's monthly obligation to write 19,500 retiree checks, worth about \$40 million, a sacred duty.

Clare Murphy has been available to the POA to discuss membership concerns (see Letters to Editor regarding maternity leave buy-backs), advise on charter language for benefit enhancements, and offer guidance on such issues as the CCSF Deferred Compensation (457) Plan. Amongst the POA leadership, she is considered to be fair, thoughtful, knowledgeable, and absolutely dedicated to the SFERS. While not always in agreement with POA proposals, her views are never motivated by petty politics but always by what she sees is in the best interests of the SFERS.

### The Rest of the SFERS Cast

The *Institutional Investor* article also focused on David Kushner, Deputy Director of Investments, and Commissioner Joe Driscoll.

Joe Driscoll was acknowledged as "a driving force behind the plan's investment innovations since he became a Trustee in 1986." Joe, a lieutenant in the SF Fire Department, holds an MBA in the CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst) designation.

David Kushner has supported Joe Driscoll's proposals to broaden the system views of non-traditional assets such as emerging markets, sovereign debt instruments, interest rate swaps, currency overlay programs, and international real estate. The characteristics of these assets have helped the SFERS improve its investment performance while lowering its overall investment

risks.

The mission statement of the SFERS states: "San Francisco City and County Employees' Retirement System is dedicated to securing, protecting and prudently investing the pension trust assets, administering mandated benefit programs, and providing promised benefits." Credit in fulfilling this pledge is justifiably deserved by the SFERS Board: Brenda Wright, President; Al Casciato, Vice President; Joe Driscoll, Commissioner; E. David Ellington, Commissioner; Michael Kim, Commissioner; Herb Meiburger, Commissioner; and Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, Commissioner.

### SFERS Top Challenge

The *Institutional Investor* article stated: "SFERS benefit levels are now near the state average for firefighters and policemen but remain about 10 to 15 percent below median levels in California for general employees,

who represent 80% of the SFERS members."

The City's miscellaneous employees deserve an enhancement to their retirement benefits to, at least, bring them up to median California levels. This will be a challenge to accomplish. From 1998 to mid-2004, the CCSF was not required to make contributions into the SFERS – due to the superb performance of the investment trust. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, the City's contribution rose to \$94 million, or 4.48% of payroll; it increased to about \$138 million, or 6.58% of payroll for fiscal 2006. It is difficult to raise retirement benefits when the City's contribution to the SFERS is rising, but this is what must be done. How? That remains the challenge for the miscellaneous employees' unions, the SFERS Commission, and the City's political leaders.

November 23, 2005

Clare Murphy  
Executive Director  
CCSF Employee's Retirement System  
30 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 3000  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Personal Leave Buy Back

Dear Ms. Murphy:

Several of our female members have approached us, inquiring into the possibility of their purchasing Retirement System credit for periods of time in which they were off work on uncompensated maternity leaves and other such personal leaves. These officers desire to buy back the uncompensated time they used principally for maternity leave.

Currently, there are 72 female police officers and 4 male police officers interested in such a buy back. The 4 male officers took time off work, using the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act, to be with their spouses during the child birthing process.

We have told our members that we will pursue this issue for them. Initially, our inquiry is to determine whether there is a mechanism presently in effect to allow such buy back and, if not, what mechanism would be needed in order for them to accomplish their objective.

On behalf of these members, the POA would request that this matter be calendared at the Retirement Board for referral to appropriate committee for its review and determination of the issues.

Michael S. Hebel  
POA Welfare Officer  
Attorney at Law

San Francisco City and County  
Employees' Retirement System

December 12, 2005

Mr. Michael Hebel, Esq.  
SFPOA  
800 Bryant Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Hebel:

This is in response to your letter dated November 23, 2005 regarding the purchase of periods of leave (e.g., maternity leave) without pay for retirement purposes.

San Francisco Charter provisions define the time that can be credited to a member for retirement purposes under each Plan. Only periods of employment during which a member receives compensation may be eligible for credit or buyback purchase.

A member receives credit for retirement purposes for paid time including time worked, sick pay, disability pay and vacation. All service buybacks (prior service, public service, union representative service, military service) require that the employee/member was paid compensation during the service period that is eligible for purchase.

Please refer to the following Charter provisions regarding computation of service for each of the SFERS plans:

#### Charter Sections

A8.587-7, Plan - Miscellaneous (New Plan);  
A8.509-g, Plan - Miscellaneous (Old Plan);  
A8.595-10, Plan - Police (Old Plan);  
A8.596-10, Plan - Fire (Old Plan);  
A8.597-10, Plan - Police (New Plan);  
A8.598-10, Plan - Fire (New Plan)

It would require San Francisco Charter amendments in order to provide buyback purchase of uncompensated maternity leaves or other such personal leaves for credit with SFERS.

Very truly yours,  
Clare M. Murphy  
Executive Director

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# The Death Of Pensions

By Mike Hebel,  
Welfare Officer

The American dream included a pledge by U.S. corporations to their workers: for decades of loyal employment, they were assured of retirement benefits including a monthly pension check and healthcare. No more!

## Golden Retirement Era Ending

Since 1985, 112,200 corporate pension plans have been terminated. Just 20% of private employers are now covered by the remaining 29,690 defined benefit plans.

Many of the remaining plans are under funded – \$450 billion short of what employers need. Companies in serious financial trouble – airlines and automakers – are \$108 billion shy. And the federal guarantor of those plans, Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) already is short \$23.5 billion on plans it has already taken over (including Enron, MCI, K-Mart, United Airlines, and Delfi) and is projected to be completely out of money in 2013. The PBGC has already assumed responsibility for pension benefits for 1.3 million retirees. When the PBGC takes

enjoy pensions.

On the private side, corporations want out of the pension business – they do not want to make financial promises to their employees for the next 40 or 50 years.

## Many Public Pension Plans in Deep Hurt

It is conservatively estimated that public pensions are under funded by at least \$300 billion.

The San Diego's Plan has nearly bankrupted the city. The city increased its pension liabilities over the last decade without bothering to fund these added benefits. Now eight percent of the city's municipal budget goes to its employee's retirement system – with similar allocations expected for years to come. So bad was the San Diego's City Employees Retirement System that six former and current Retirement Board members are under felony indictment for conflict of interest and self-dealing. State or local governments in New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia and elsewhere face similar budget strain aggravated by under funded pension promises.

*A backlash against public employee pensions has already begun in state capitals – where political forces are urging law makes to get out of the pension business altogether.*

over a plan, retirees get but a fraction of their promised benefits.

Public companies can, and do, shed their pension obligations to their workers through bankruptcy.

Many state and municipal plans are floundering. But, this all pales next to Social Security and Medicare – both of which are in deep financial trouble (a crisis in the case of Medicare).

From 2001 to 2004, nearly 200 corporations in the Fortune 1000 killed or froze their defined benefit (monthly pension for life) plans. Hewlett-Packard has just pulled the plug on guaranteed pensions for new workers. HP was merely following IBM, NCR Corporation, Sears, Motorola, and Verizon. The nations largest private employer, Wal-Mart does not offer such pensions.

The country is in the midst of a huge revolution in the way private employers deal with their workers. Taking place is a shift from a promise of monthly checks for the rest of the retiree's life (a defined benefit plan) to a system that requires a worker to both save more for retirement and become a savvy investor of his or her retirement funds. Within a decade or so, if current trends continue, there will be no private employers offering guaranteed lifetime pensions for their workers. Within three decades or so, there will be no retired workers, from the private sector, receiving this type of pension.

The rallying cry of unionized private workers was "30 and out" – 30 years of secure employment followed by a lifetime of monthly pension checks with some carry over to surviving spouses. Now there is just crying!

In 1980, about 40% of the jobs in the private sector offered pensions; now only 20% do – this trend is irreversible. Within a decade or so, less than five percent of private jobs will

Pension advisor, Wilshire Associates of Los Angeles, conducts an annual survey of state plans. It has recently concluded that the assets short fall for state pension plans is worse than that of corporate pension plans.

A backlash against public employee pensions has already begun in state capitals – where political forces are urging law makes to get out of the pension business altogether. Alaska will deny pensions to its future employees. In California, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a ballot initiative, in the spring of 2005, to end pensions for all new public employees in California as of 7-01-07 and move to a 401(k) style defined contribution plan. Due to fierce lobbying by police and fire groups, the Governor withdrew the initiative – an initiative that failed to provide for disability retirement and death in the line of duty benefits for survivors of occupationally killed public safety employees. Schwarzenegger has promised his supporters that he will bring this initiative back if the California legislature fails to curtail public employee pensions.

The PBGC does not protect government pensions. As a matter of practice, however, public employee pension benefits are as good as insured. They are legally inviolable, default is not an option. The taxpayer must put up the money. But this does not ensure that benefits will be adequately funded. The West Virginia Teachers' Retirement System has, gasp, only 22% of the assets needed to meet its expected liabilities. Right now, Illinois is under funded \$38 billion, or \$3,000 for every man, woman and child residing there. The New Jersey Police and Fire Retirement System is woefully under funded, now requiring annual taxpayer contributions of \$220 million– this figure is expected to grow to \$2.5 billion by 2010. If New Jersey were a

private corporation, its system would be nearly bankrupt – with \$25 billion in un-funded pension promises.

Barclay's Global Investors believes that the overall under funding in all public plans is in the order of (\$460 billion). If this figure is even close to accurate, future taxpayers will be deeply in hock to their public employees.

Cutting public pensions for current employees and retirees is not an option. These benefits are contractually vested and sacrosanct. It is only future public employees whose pension benefits can be lowered or abolished.

Now Michigan, following Alaska, has closed its pension plans to some new employees. Florida, Colorado, South Carolina, Arizona, Ohio, and Montana are taking a partial step of letting employees choose between defined contribution plans and traditional pensions.

In New York, a citizens budget commission, a politically neutral watch-dog, concluded that only by ending pensions outright – for new employees–could New York avert a future fiscal calamity. But this is not about to happen any time soon; it is, however, a warning beacon for employees in under funded public pension systems.

Peace officers, firefighters, teachers and nurses are attracted to public service for the job opportunities offered and the benefits promised. Pensions will continue to motivate employees to these public services.

## The 401(k) Non-Solution

The universal replacement for the private sector pension is the ubiquitous 401(k). Its presence in the public sector is just beginning.

The 401(k) was never intended as a retirement plan. It evolved as a tax break that congress awarded to corporate executive in 1978, allowing them to defer part of their salaries and cut their tax bills. The idea was to encourage savings and provide a tax shelter, not to substitute the plan for pensions.

Then corporations discovered they could improve their bottom lines by shifting workers out of costly defined benefit plans and into much cheaper (for companies) and more risky (for workers) uninsured 401(k)s. Today, \$2 trillion is invested in those accounts. But a 401(k) is not substitute for a defined-benefit pension – not even close. In 2004, the average 401(k) contained \$61,000; but the median value was only \$17,000. Nearly one in four accounts had a balance of less than \$5,000.

What is the future for the non-affluent private sector worker? Living on



Mike Hebel

social security (average monthly check of \$975.00 a month), working full or part time for as long as physically possible, and looking to family members or charities for assistance.

Retirement, for many, will come to resemble what it was 100 years ago – short and financially challenged.

## Protect Your Pension

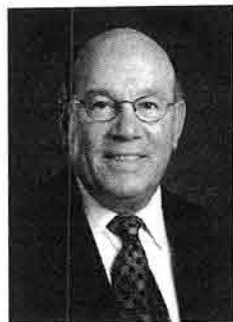
The demise of private sector pensions is a foregone conclusion. No large corporation has started one in the past five years. And none will. The cost of funding them can be so steep and unpredictable that employers offering them are unable to compete against those who don't.

A pension, if you have one, is probably far and away your largest and fastest growing asset. Pension formulas accelerate the value of benefits as you age.

Current legislation in congress will not rescue corporate pensions from their fate. It will encourage corporations to pay off their un-funded liabilities and increase their contributions to the PBGC. It will make it easier for employers to replace pensions with hybrids that blend features of pensions and 401(k)s. Employers will be required to automatically enroll every worker in a 401(k) plan unless the employee specifically opts out. It will also clear away legal obstacles that now prevent companies from converting their traditional pension plans to cash-balance plans, which provide workers with lump sums in retirement.

The demise of public sector pensions is not yet a foregone conclusion. Endangered, yes! Endangered by under funding a promised benefit; endangered by outraged taxpayers in those jurisdictions facing increased taxes to properly fund pension benefits.

Your pension is probably your most valuable asset. Protect and nurture it. Guard and defend it.



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## Retirement Board Election

# Why Joe Driscoll Must Be Retained

By Mike Hebel,  
POA Welfare Officer

The SFPOA enthusiastically supports and endorses the re-election of SF firefighter Joe Driscoll, for a 5th term, as an employee representative on the Retirement Board of the City and County of San Francisco. As POA welfare officer, I have observed the workings of the Retirement System, its Board, and its commissioners for over 31 years. I can state unequivocally and unqualifiedly that not only does Joe deserve to be re-elected, he must be re-elected.

### Qualifications

Joe is a lieutenant in the SF Fire Department. When he was first elected to the Retirement Board in 1986, the retirement system's trust fund had \$3 billion with which to pay and improve retirement benefits. The system now has over \$13 billion with which to pay and improve retirement benefits. During Joe's tenure the retirement system became one of the most securely funded public pension plans not only in California but throughout the United States with an actuarial funding ratio now exceeding 108%.

As a commissioner, Joe led the way in developing asset allocation policies to generate superior investment returns and to help minimize employee/employer contributions. His astute and keen leadership in the management of our retirement monies has insured and help fund increased retirement benefits and the extra cost of living adjustment received by current and future City retirees. Within public sector retirement system circles, he is

widely respected for his clear advice and keen knowledge of the application of investment principles for retirement systems. He has enabled our system to achieve strong performance returns while accepting only prudent risks.

In the August 2005 issue of *Institutional Investor* Joe was praised for moving and guiding the investment policies of our retirement system. Our system was acknowledged as having "an innovative investment approach that has made the San Francisco retirement system one of the few public pension plans that is over funded."

Joe is a chartered financial analyst who spends over 20 hours a week on retirement system matters. He has helped public safety and miscellaneous unions to achieve benefit increases for their members. He thoroughly understands that improved employee retirement benefits are mostly dependent upon excellent performance of the retirement fund. He also understands that only prudent risks can be taken with these trust funds in order to achieve superior performance.

### My Admiration for Joe Driscoll

As a certified financial planner, I constantly survey the investment arena to see which private and public retirement funds and endowments seem to have the best management achieving superior returns. I have come to respect David Swensen who runs the Yale University \$15 billion endowment fund and Jack Meyer who manages Harvard University's \$22 billion endowment. Both have managed their respective endowments for over 15 years and both are considered by their peers as having built some of the

*Our system was acknowledged as having "an innovative investment approach that has made the San Francisco retirement system one of the few public pension plans that is over funded."*

most spectacular annual investment returns on the planet. Harvard University's endowment has grown 15.9% on an annualized basis for the last 10 years; Yale's has grown 17.4% in this same period. (The average endowment and the S & P 500 have grown 9.9% annually during the last 10 years.) These two investment managers have transformed the way endowments and pension systems invest their monies. They are talented visionaries. David Swensen is considered to be one of only a handful of investment geniuses currently managing money.

In 2000 David Swensen published his first book *Pioneering Portfolio Management: An Unconventional Approach To Institutional Investment*; this quickly became essential reading for professional asset managers. In my observations of Joe Driscoll he has well read the lessons and investment principles contained in Swensen's book; he has led the CCSF retirement system into the use of non-traditional assets such as emerging markets, sovereign debt instruments, currency overlay programs, and international real estate. The characteristics of these assets have helped the CCSF retirement fund improve its performance while lowering its overall investment risks.

Joe has an incredible institutional

memory of what works and what did not with our retirement trust fund. He is a master at the skills of asset allocation, quarterly/annual review/rebalancing, and the spreading of fund monies over various investments that don't move in step with one another (thereby lowering risk and improving returns).

For me Joe Driscoll is the David Swensen of public pension plans. Joe is a dedicated master.

### Re-elect Joe Driscoll

Ballots for this Retirement Board election will go out to all active and retired members of the Retirement System on December 26, 2005. The voting period is the last three weeks of January 2006. Look for your ballot and vote for Joe.

Since 1986, City employees (active and retired) have sent Joe Driscoll to the Retirement Board "to make money." To make money so that employee retirement benefits could be improved and to make money so that the supplemental cost of living adjustment could be paid to retirees and their beneficiaries. Joe has delivered magnificently. He wants to continue delivering the goods for active and retired members of the CCSF Employees' Retirement System. Thank you Joe.

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wife of John Keane,  
Narcotics Division, SFPD



# POA Holiday Visit to UCSF Children's Hospital

By Lyn Tomioka

On Monday December 19, 2005 some dedicated members and their family and friends finished up the annual POA Santa's holiday hospital visits.

President Gary Delagnes and Chief Heather Fong were part of four groups that gave out toys and treats to the children and nursing staff at U.C.S.F. We all had a great time.

I would like to give a special "Thanks" to Jodi Morimoto, Cathy Choy, Jackie Carter and Patty Sempelsz-Wick, along with Barbara Dullea, Debra King and Lloyd Lew who dressed up as either Mrs. Claus or as an elf to entertain the children.

Commander David Shinn, Captain Steven Tacchini, Lieutenant Tom Sawyer, Lieutenant David Lazar, Noel DeLeon, Marty Halloran, Michelle Kern, Ana Morales, Jamie Ongpin, Steve Morimoto, Nelson Ramos, John Pai, Louis Rue and Kirk Tomioka wore their uniforms and gave each child toys and treats.

It is very difficult and sometimes sad to see children that are so sick, that they can't go home for Christmas or the holiday season, but the staff at U.C.S.F. does a wonderful job and they not only nurse the children, they provide tremendous support to the whole family.

You may be wondering why "Santa" didn't come with us this year. That was because the children see quite a few Santa's during December and it gets confusing for them so the staff asked if we would mind just showing up as SFPD with our own helpers.

These visits are very rewarding for all of us and I invite each of you to join us next year and experience the fun for yourself.



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# Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony

Compiled by Sgt. Joe Reilly, Police Commission and Dwayne Tully, Public Affairs  
Photos courtesy of the SFPD Photo Lab

The annual Medal of Valor Awards ceremony was held on December 1 in the auditorium of the Bank of America building on California Street. Once again, the command staff had the opportunity to publicly acknowledge

the extraordinary devotion to duty demonstrated by the honored officers. With family and friends proudly looking on, four members of the Department received the Silver Medal of Valor (two of whom also received the Purple Heart), and three sergeants and 13 officers were awarded the Bronze Medal of Valor. This was an evening marked by pride, camaraderie, and the knowledge of a job well done.



From left: Sgt. Greg Yee, Off. Steven Pomatto, Off. Matthew Inocencio, Off. Mark Hutchings, Off. Malcolm Anderson, Chief Heather Fong. They were the recipients of the Bronze Medal of Valor.

## Bronze Medal of Valor

On December 18, 2004, these officers responded to a report of a man with a knife threatening to kill people in a Walgreen's on Haight Street. The manager had evacuated the store and only the suspect remained inside. When officers entered the building, the suspect was pouring lighter fluid over shelves of merchandise and setting items on fire. He sprayed some of the fluid on one of the officers. Before long, the store was filled with smoke from the fires, but the officers, in spite of the danger from the smoke and the slippery floors, persisted in their efforts to capture the suspect. In a struggle that resulted in Officer Inocencio's boot set afire, the officers finally subdued the victim, who was a convicted arsonist.



Inspector Pat Correa flanked by Police Commissioner Joe Vernone and Chief Fong. Inspector Correa was awarded both the Silver Medal of Valor and the Purple Heart.

## Silver Medal of Valor and Purple Heart

Inspector Patricia Correa, along with Inspector Leanora Militello, had been investigating an aggravated assault case and were able to identify a suspect. On August 11, 2004 they located the suspect on the street in front of his address in Daly City and approached him. He suddenly produced a knife and attacked both Inspectors each of whom sustained serious wounds in the ensuing struggle. Although severely wounded, the Inspectors called for assistance and medical aid as they held the suspect at bay inside his residence where he had fled. At one point the suspect reappeared in a window, now holding a gun, whereupon Inspector Correa fired at him, forcing him to retreat back into the residence.

The suspect was captured by a team of Daly City police who arrived along with medical aid. Ignoring their perilous condition, neither Inspector was diverted from her duty and were each awarded the Silver Medal of Valor and Purple Heart for their actions.



Silver medal of Valor and Purple Heart recipient Inspector Pat Correa is flanked by, from left, Chief Heather Fong, Deputy Chief Melinda Pengel, Deputy Chief Morris Tabak, Deputy Chief David Shinn, Commander Samuel Craig, Deputy Chief Antonio Parra, Acting Chief Steve Tachini, and Commander Sylvia Harper.





### Bronze Medal of Valor

On October 14, 2004, these officers responded to a citizen who had been the victim of a robbery attempt from a man wearing bloody clothing and wielding a knife and who had escaped on a bicycle. The officers chased the suspect on foot, surrounding him. Because of the crowded Grant Avenue sidewalks, the officers had to exercise great restraint in attempting to capture the suspect who continued to wield the knife at the officers. Sgt. Perez finally was able to shoot the suspect's thigh, incapacitating him and bringing a potential deadly encounter to a close without injury to the officers or pedestrians.

From left: Sgt. Frank Harrell, Off. Thomas Johnson, Sgt. George Perez, Chief Fong.



### Silver Medal of Valor

Intending to apprehend suspects who were responsible for multiple shootings in the Oceanview area, on June 9, 2004, Sgt. Bragagnolo and Off. Elzey entered the premises of one of the known suspects and were confronted by one suspect lying on a bed and who shot at the officers. The suspect attempted to fire a second time, but his gun jammed and Sgt. Bragagnolo was able to fire, hitting the suspect and allowing the officers to take him into custody. Although both officers knew the danger awaiting them, they were undeterred in their efforts to capture this armed felon.

Off. Duane Elzey (left) and Sgt. John Bragagnolo with Chief Fong. Both received the Silver Medal of Valor.



### Bronze Medal of Valor

While responding to a domestic disturbance call on March 15, 2003, in a chance encounter, the officers found themselves confronted by a man who had pulled a pistol from his backpack, loaded with seven rounds, and threatened to kill them all. Within seconds the officers were in a struggle for their lives but through their instincts and teamwork, they managed to subdue the suspect and wrestle the gun from him despite his violent resistance. Later investigation revealed that the suspect was a fugitive and had once tried to kill a Nebraska State Trooper.

From left: Bronze Medal of Valor recipients Off. Daniel Silver, Off. Patrick Burtherus, Off. Thomas Westbrook, Off. Sylvia Petrossian, Chief Heather Fong.



# Public Response to the Bayview Videos

**T**he POA has received hundreds of correspondences regarding the recent dust-up over the so-called Bayview Video scandal. The majority of those are letters, emails, and web bloggers expressing support for the suspended officers, disapproval of the actions taken against them by the department and the mayor's office,

or both. While we also received correspondence of varying degrees of condemnation, the following are samples of the positive comments, reprinted here to demonstrate support and encouragement for the involved officers, and all of San Francisco's dedicated police officers. – Ed.

## Source: CBS 5: SFPD Video Scandal – The Public Response

"... I did a ride along with the S.F. Police for the full 8-hour shift. At that time of my ride along, the S.F. Police were down about 200-plus police officers. The toll it has taken on these men and women is incredible. ... Their workload has long passed the point of serious danger to them physically and mentally and their fellow officers. Clearly the powers-that-be don't have a clue as to what it takes to be a good police officer. ... I saw the Video, it was a bunch of Officers making fun of themselves."  
– D.P. Fadala

"The Mayor and the Chief are overreacting. I watched all of the clips and they WERE funny. In such a high-stress job, with their lives on the line daily, comic relief is a GOOD thing. It also shows their camaraderie. The Chief and Mayor should be happy they don't have humorless people on the force that have become jaded and mean-spirited – those are the ones THEY NEED to worry about."

"Shame on you Chief & Mayor Newsom (your political correctness in "this" matter is underwhelming – and I LIKE you). You should stand behind your force. They are out daily, standing behind us. They deserved to have a party, watch a funny video, and LAUGH. They DO NOT deserve to be suspended."

Pat  
East Bay

"It's all a take-off on Reno 911, the funniest show on TV. This stuff is tame, actually, compared to Reno 911."

–Janice Williams

"I believe the suspensions of the officers involved are wrong. The mayor and the chief need to not be so hard on the finest the city has to offer. My father is a former SFPD Sergeant at Park Station. I also have friends that are officers. This is a sign of a good, close working environment."

– James C. Pera Petaluma

"Not terribly funny. Not terribly offensive. The over-the-top reaction by officials gives greater pause for worry, wonder and reflection than the presumed transgression. Maybe if Howard Stern were police commissioner..."

– Don Laskin

"Anyone that says this video is racist or sexist is an idiot. There are some parts of the video that I find gross, but bad taste in making a funny/ stupid video is not any reason to play up a big stir. I'm sick of so many people playing the race card at the

drop of a hat. Whoever is making a stink about this needs to get a life."

– Alec Gustafson

"The San Francisco Police Department and ALL police have a stressful job. They need humor in their lives. Humor relieves the stress. Why must people take things so seriously and try to be so politically correct? ... These politically correct people need to get a life and stop worrying about such trivial matters."

– Paul Dale Roberts, Elk Grove

"So the SFPD had a little fun, Man some people need to get a life."

– Robert Mickley

"What is the big deal? The response is so over the top by both the Mayor and Police Chief, they should focus on cutting the murder rate in the city rather than take on the officers that work in the most crime ridden precinct in San Francisco who were just doing a little something for use within their own little part of the world."

– Carl Marsh

"Gavin Newsom is a petulant punk who needs to grow up! When the black, white, Latino, Asian, gay and straight men and women who work in a chronic combat zone collaborate to find humor in their world, the mayor and his police chief poodle start falling all over themselves to champion the politically correct point of view. San Francisco used to be a great city. Too bad the leadership is converging toward absurdity."

– Michael Schott

"It is a Dark Day, indeed, to have learned that our police and civilian leadership are such ninnies. ... Some people are too easily offended... Give me a break."

– Jason Laux

"San Francisco has no sense of humor."

– Frank Kinney

"The cops are having fun, nothing more than that. Please stop acting like they killed someone or hurt someone. Some stressful jobs needs to humor to get the job done correctly."

– Phelisha Clayborn

"This "politically correct" world is a joke! These women and men (of SFPD) work their tails off. This was not intended for the public, but leaked out. Big deal!"

"When I initially heard the news report, I was concerned. Now after viewing the tapes, I have to ask why everyone is making such a big deal about them. I work in the corporate world and have been to many sales conferences where these types of

videos are shown to build morale and make us laugh at ourselves. Are we so hyper sensitive to everything that life must be sanitized to the point of bland, boring nothingness."

– Carol

"... view it for what it is... a spoof on the everyday stress of the job as a cop in the city, not real life... or real attitudes."

– Jim Hastie

"Since when is self-deprecating humor something to be suspended for? It is merely a release from a very stressful day of dealing with scumbags. It is unfortunate that we can't laugh at someone making fun of themselves. I think everyone should watch Saturday Night Live Reruns and realize that parodies of life can be funny. Now I am going to go find Captain Rick and buy him a beer."

– Anita Garcia

"I watched all the clips, and it is beyond me what all the fuss is about. Maybe a case of stupidity to put it on the web, but that's about it. ... What's the big deal? Reprimand them for wasting time, and get them back to work on the streets where they're needed!"

– Daddy-O

"I cannot believe that the Mayor and the Chief are reacting in such a way. These videos are funny and should be taken as tongue in cheek. Reno 911 has nothing on these guys but ratings. In such a high stress job, some levity, I believe should be encouraged not shunned."

– Mr. Z

"I am a good person after being a police officer for many years and was a good person before I entered this line of work. I would imagine that most of the people featured in the video clips are as well. Perhaps Mayor Newsom will start censoring RENO 911 and delete Comedy Central from his television viewing guide."

–R. Wentworth

"The moral among San Francisco's fires responders is at a all time low and they do not feel and obligation to support a mayor that does not support them. I trust you will realize your mistake in overreacting to the video and quickly restore all involved to active duty and put this mayoral debacle behind you."

–Gary Cicotte

"I decided to watch the videos to see what all the fuss was about. I can't believe the reaction these videos are getting from the Mayor and the Chief of Police. If anything, the police are mocking themselves! The mayor, once again, is using this to profit his political agenda. Heather Fong, we knew where you stood

when you didn't challenge the District Attorney and ask for the death penalty when your police officer was murdered. People of San Francisco, rise up and support your over-worked, under paid, highly stressed police department! Call the mayor's office today!"

– Debbie

"The most tolerant city on earth is trumpeting its intolerance for all to see. San Francisco doesn't have a shortage of thought police but they may find themselves with a shortage of the real police."

– Andrew Hunt

"Okay so they used poor judgment. Blowing off steam is a necessity in such a highly stressful job. ... Let's not generalize the entire SFPD, there are great officers serving their community and making a difference everyday in the lives of SF citizens. ... Shame on you Mayor Newsome, and Chief Fong for making much ado about nothing!"

– Rob Anthony

"Poor taste, poor judgment but really there is more offensive material weekly on Saturday Night Live or nightly on adult swim. The police chief and mayor need to watch more TV."

– Anne Jordan

"Are you kidding? Chief Fong is having a cow about THIS? ... How will Chief Fong react in the face of a genuine controversy, as opposed to this overstated, trumped up nothing?"

– A Native San Franciscan

"Oh, come on. These police put their lives on the line every day. The Bayview is a 'mean' neighborhood. I know, I lived there the first 15 years of my life. We were happy to get out of it. This video was meant for their eyes only. Don't put them down. They are the protectors of the hood. What is the harm? Lighten up!"

– Marsha

"I don't like cops. But the video is no big deal. Whomever is pushing for action against those involved has too much time, petty, and should pull the stick outta their a\*\*."

– Goose

"The fact that over 70% of the Bay Area folks who shared their opinion of the video think it is humorous and inoffensive drives home the point that perhaps the Bay Area is not as tolerant as it thinks it is. Shame on us."

– Kim

"Often 'gallows humor' is what keeps people in stressful situations and jobs going because to face the hard reality becomes too much to bear. If we can laugh at ourselves then we will survive. What I find shocking is that you would post



them on the internet as cheap voyeuristic humor and as a method for people to take cheap shots at the police department."

– Al Compton

"All of the personally insulted individuals need to get a life and stop whining because the world does not have to like you."

– Eric Felix

It was in "jest", do you remember doing, saying, or acting out corny stuff for the fun of it? ... When are the petty tantrums of city officials and those who are "soooooo outraged" going to end? I hope you all have a Merry Christmas. Oh, I guess I shouldn't say that...I don't want to offend."

– J. Brock of Houston, TX

The SFPD Command Staff and the Mayor's Office over reacted. Was the clip a little stupid? Yes. Racist, sexist, homophobic, etc? NO."

– John Jamison, SF Calif.

"They are juvenile and amateurish, but hardly worthy of the mayor and chief of police responses. You should interview some ordinary people about this. Shame on you for contributing to making a mountain out of a molehill."

– David Bereznai

"I was appalled. Not by the police officers, but by the Mayor of San Francisco. Overstated, reactionary, and obviously out of touch with the people that do the real work for the city. These officers risk their lives every day, and to suspend them for having a little fun is appalling. I would be happy to have any of the suspended officers come to my rescue if I ever needed assistance."

– Lee Miller

**"To the San Francisco Police Dept:**

Don't let Mayor Newsome and Heather Fong get you down! ... I don't know how you all continue to work in the impossible, anti-cop environment that is San Francisco, but I admire your dedication. ... Keep your chins up and realize that there are plenty at people who support you and are fed up with the status quo in SF."

– Bridget. Skillman

"Oh please say it isn't so that 20 officers were suspended over a silly video that actually gave me the best laugh I have had in a long time. Reinstate the badly needed officers with an apology and get on with Important things."

– Mark Miller San Francisco

Please let these officers know that there are people who support them and who think that this is a ridiculous media circus. I'm sorry that our local government does not support them, and you, as much as we residents do."

– John Stephens

"I am a San Francisco resident (94131) and I am appalled that we have allowed political correctness to overwhelm us in such a negative manner. Thank you to Mayor Newsom and Chief Fong for taking officers off the streets, where they can do some good, solely because they appeared in a video that might offend someone"

– a native San Franciscan

**"Dear Chief Fong:**

I retired from the N.Y.P.D. in 1980. My last assignment was Detective Captain of Manhattan Homicide. I am 72 years old. This is about the recent "scandal" involving police officers in one of your busy precincts. The New York Times was so impressed that it put the story on page 33; nor did it editorialize on the matter. This from the most liberal paper in town. Only CNN shared your enthusiasm for this non-story~ although I'm sure it played well on the West Coast, home of the politically correct.

In case you're thinking that I'm a typical right-wing cop, you're wrong. I'm an independent. My police friends think I'm a liberal. I voted for Kerry, and I'm against the war in Iraq. What I really can't stand is hypocrisy, and I'm sorry to say that you and your mayor are the personification of it. But then you have a lot of company out there. I'm so proud to be a New Yorker, and a cop."

– Capt. Richard Cantwell

"I think the City and County of San Francisco needs to develop a sense of humor rather than jumping on the politically correct band wagon all the time. The case brought against the SFPD officers involved in making the tongue in cheek video laughing at themselves is a an outrage. It would seem that the Mayor and police Chief Fang should have much better things to do with their time rather than quaking in their boots over their fear of someone being offended. What the heck is wrong with laughing at ourselves. I do hope the police administration doesn't start a witch-hunt to find something, anything to discipline these officers for.

Forget it and grow up Gavin and Heather, you've made fools of yourselves once again."

– J.L. Baxter

"I am writing to offer my support to the San Francisco Police dept. regarding the recent difficulties with the video tapes. For 44 years I have been a resident of San Francisco and for those 44 years have relied on San Francisco police officers to protect me. In that the police department has never once failed me.

Now that San Francisco police officers are in trouble, for problems that in my opinion are grossly exaggerated, I would like you all to know that I support you, each and every one of you is still a hero in my book. I would like to see every suspended officer back on the job.

Please let me know if there are any city officials I can write, petitions to sign, donations I can make to legal funds, how can I help the San Francisco police officers who are in trouble?

I consider it an honor to come to your help."

– Mark Miller, San Francisco

**"Dear Chief Fong,**

First let me say in general I think you do a pretty darn good job from what I read and see on TV.

However, your reaction and Mayor Newsom's reaction to the police video "scandal" is completely over the top. Look, I'm a gay man and I wasn't the least bit offended by the black guy in a dress mincing in front of the camera flicking his tongue. I just thought he looked stupid. Basically the only "scandal" about all this is that the officers involved

looked pretty silly. The political correctness of this area is getting completely out of hand. The videos were not racist, sexist or homophobic. It was just a badly done satire. To suspend over 20 officers over this is like killing a fly with an atomic bomb.

In short none of this offends most people... what DOES offend most of us is thousands of people homeless on our streets and no one doing much to help them. That is the sort of thing that is a scandal, NOT a bunch of cops trying to be the next Eddie Murphy or Margaret Cho. The officers involved in this need to get back on the job... your city needs them!

Lighten up Heather."

– Bill Russell, San Jose

"I am writing to let you know that I think the furor over the Christmas Party video has reached extreme proportions. I am a "left-leaning" woman who grew up in the 70s, and I am very sensitive to racist, sexist, and homophobic comments and/or conduct. But I am also sensitive to the fact that we all should be able to laugh at ourselves and others as long as the intent is not mean-spirited. It seems from what I have read and heard, that the video was meant for an internal, private, Christmas and/or Retirement Party. It also seems that no one who participated in the video, a wide variety of people, was forced to act or participate against their will. Clips I've seen are really not offensive. I've watched more offensive, mean-spirited swipes at various groups of people on HBO and Comedy Central. The skits actually seems pretty benign. And I'm sure sure lots of people, who might not want to admit it, have actually laughed at the skits."

– Kim Nastick

"I feel that anyone that would be offended over something this silly with all the plight going on in this world is not due any apology, as they obviously do not have a grasp as to what is really important in this world. As stated in the report the officers involved, that are under tremendous stress every day were trying to do something to lighten the atmosphere of their lives. Kudos to them. I'd rather see them do something like this than become alcoholics or addicts as happens to many of their brethren. ...Shame on the administration for bowing to the ridicules of the political correctness fanatics."

– Paul Mostad

"Please feel free to share my thoughts with the victim officers. They are shared by everyone I've talked to both in and out of law enforcement. People can see this for exactly what it is, politics as usual with the police officers being used as the fall guy and the police administration jumping on the political band wagon rather than trying to support the officers. Scrooge is alive and well in San Francisco City Hall. Merry Christmas."

– Jack Baxter

"... Fong intoned, 'This is a dark day – an extremely dark day – in the history of the San Francisco Police Department for me as a chief to have to stand here and share with you such egregious, shameful and despicable acts' by SFPD members.

You know, I'd save that rhetoric for when a police officer or a civilian is shot – not for a prank video."

– Debra Saunders

**"Ms. Saunders,**

I want to thank you for standing up for the SFPD in your article referring to the video made by some officers of SFPD.

I'm a retired Sgt. from SFPD.

I absolutely think Mayor Newsom and Chief Fong have blown this way out of proportion."

– Roger Farrell

"The Tucson PD had a similar incident a few years ago where some younger officers posed for photos in uniform and there may have been a police unit or two involved. TPD completed the investigation with limited issues, informed the public of the situation in a timely fashion, took corrective action and moved on. No blue ribbon panels or committees were involved. ... I am skewed towards the police mentality in this case. I really have no buy in other than I have known some pretty good blue suits from the SFPD for years and I have always found you guys to be red, white and blue and always professional. Damn cop humor!"

– Spiro

**Hi POA –**

I was not offended by the recent "scandal" involving SFPD. I have lived in SF since 1962 and I am Queer, Raza/Native American and a Clinical Social Worker. I haven't had the opportunity to view all of the tapes but does it really matter? What concerned me is the ease with which your Chief and the Mayor were so willing to point fingers and publicly shame individuals before any airing of the facts! At age 63, I am quite capable of understanding what is going on once the facts are known.

From what I have viewed on TV, the video is nothing to brag about. Still, the actions of the Chief and the Mayor are, in my opinion, more harmful! I look forward to reading a more thorough analysis of what actually happened. Good luck to all of the officers that are back on the job. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Frank Lostaunau, LCSW  
Eddy Street, San Francisco

**Sir [Frank Lostaunau] –**

Thank you for your gracious concern and support for the vast majority of dedicated street officers who have also been unfairly smeared by the actions of our civic leaders.

We, too, look forward to a comprehensive and fair investigation into the matter. We do not condone the videos, but neither do we feel that the making of them was "a dark, dark day in the history of the SFPD."

We agree with you. Some people in city government need a healthy reality check.

Enjoy your holidays, and thank you for your message.

Ray Shine, Editor  
POA Journal

Ray Shine  
journal@sfpoa.org

**Subject: Re: Video Scandal**

Take it easy Ray, and have a safe holiday. "Smeared"? It was more like TRASHED! Hang in there!

Frank Lostaunau, LCSW  
Eddy Street, San Francisco



# From the Archive

While this will be little consolation to the 24 POA members recently suspended for the Bayview Videos, it can be said that their predicament is just another bump in the road for the POA and its battles with the political leadership of this city. Case in point is this article that I wrote and which appeared in the July 1997 issue of the *POA Notebook*, the publication that was later renamed the *POA Journal*. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission summoned the leaders of the POA to appear before them in order

refute allegations of racism and thuggery perpetrated by POA members at a Police Commission meeting. That meeting was one of the most contentious Commission meetings on record, and its focus was the outrage generated by actions of Richmond Station officers in the infamous Aaron Williams death-in-custody case. Read this nine-year-old article and understand why it is often said that history just continually repeats itself.

— Ray Shine

July 1997

*More Williams/Andaya Fallout*

## Human Rights Commission Investigates POA

*Notebook Staff Report*

POA executive officers appeared before a fact-finding committee of the Human Rights Commission to refute allegations made to that panel by persons associated with the Marc Andaya case. President Chris Cunnie, Vice President Gary Delagnes, Treasurer Jack Minkel, *Notebook* editor Ray Shine, and Staff attorney Kathy Mahoney spoke on behalf of the beleaguered association.

The July 2 hearing was convened by

comment and their supporters.

Some complainants told the HRC they felt physically threatened by the POA contingency, even describing how they were forced to pass through a "gauntlet" of hostile officers as they left the meeting. Barbara Attard, who was in the auditorium that evening, told her HRC colleagues that the meeting had degenerated to the point where she also feared there would be a sudden eruption of violence between POA members and Andaya detractors.

rium, a move designed to demonstrate unity and to condemn the illegal fiat made by the Commission President. In the lobby outside the chamber he called for an impromptu press conference and read aloud — despite the jeers and howls and spittle of the stalking Andaya/POA haters — a statement of support for brother Andaya. Nervous police brass had directed a squad of on-duty, uniformed officers to stand between the POA members and the mob, as much — he presumed — to protect the POA members as to maintain a semblance of order. (Could this account for the notion that there was a "gauntlet" of officers?)—

### Moment of Silence Rattles HOJ

Delagnes did admit to HRC probers that there was a point in the proceedings when the patience of the POA attendees had become too strained to manage. That was when a community activist brazenly seized control of the podium and declared that there would be a moment of silence observed in honor of Aaron Williams. This outraged POA members, and some of them shouted out the names of slain police officers in protest. That in turn agitated those who had stood to the memory of Williams, and the solemn moment deteriorated, reverberating through with indictments and denunciations.

This appeared to cause some con-

scapegoats for that shortcoming by hindsight and administrative abandonment. The members believed that none of the officers had done anything improper or unreasonable considering the circumstances of the event. They felt that the police brass and the police commission had reacted to the Williams case more for popular reasons than honest ones, and that Marc Andaya in particular had been singled out to be the unwitting fall guy in a media-driven political escapade.

The fallout from the Williams incident had unified POA members. Their support of Andaya on that evening was meant to display that solidarity to Marc, to the Commission, and to the City at large. That unified spirit, Cunnie said confidently, remained strong and he was not of a mind to rationalize or demean it.

### Racism and Literary Quirks

The HRC appeared preoccupied with the specter that the POA is a racist organization or that it condones the racist acts of its members. Allegations that POA members were calling out racial epithets to persons who were addressing the Police Commission were inquired about. Also of concern was an article that appeared in the March 1997 edition of the *POA Notebook*.

Delagnes declared that no racial epithets were used by any POA member and, had he witnessed any such thing,

*"The picture painted for the HRC by the complainants was of a mustered brigade of POA regulars who blitzed that Police Commission meeting and fell-in at the back of the hall in a raucous pack intent on intimidating and deriding all Andaya critics."*

the HRC Issues Committee, Commissioners Martha Knutzen, Agar Jaicks, and Antonio Salazar-Hobson conducted the inquiry. Also present were various committee persons, most notably Jill Tregor (Inter-group Clearinghouse, and co-facilitator of the Police Discipline Roundtable) and Barbara Attard (Office of Citizen Complaints). At issue were the conduct of POA members at a notorious Police Commission meeting, and the context and significance of an article that appeared in a past issue of the *Notebook*.

The HRC had, weeks earlier, compiled a body of complaints against the POA. Our executive officers appeared in response to those accusations, most of which were made by persons who claimed to have been victims of, or witnesses to, unruly disruptions perpetrated by off-duty and/or non-uniformed POA members at the March 19th Police Commission meeting. That particular session — a marked low point of police Commission decorum — was convened in the 6th Floor auditorium and attended by scores of POA members, community activists, and private individuals. The focus of concern by nearly all who attended was on one man: indicted POA member Marc Andaya.

### Did POA Ruffians Bully Meeting?

The picture painted for the HRC by the complainants was of a mustered brigade of POA regulars who blitzed that Police Commission meeting and fell-in at the back of the hall in a raucous pack intent on intimidating and deriding all Andaya critics. Individual allegations referred to heckling, barked threats, and racial epithets emanating from the POA section of the audience, directed at speakers making public

### Delagnes Responds

"Not so!" declared POA Vice President Delagnes who sprang quickly — even ahead of President Cunnie — to pick up the POA banner. Taking responsibility for rallying POA attendance at that Police Commission meeting, he denounced the allegations, describing them as misrepresentations, exaggerations, or outright lies. He was adamant: POA members did not use catcalls or attempt to yell-down any speaker; they formed no gauntlet; they threatened or challenged no one.

In point of fact, he explained, the true circumstances were the opposite of the allegations. It was his members who had suffered the abuse, both from the anti-Andaya mob and the San Francisco Police Commission. It was the orchestrated antics of certain community activists that caused the disruptions and they denied POA members any opportunity to speak in the public forum. Those infringements were compounded by the refusal of then-President John Keker to control the crowd and to censure a steady litany of animosity and hate directed at the POA, at Marc Andaya, and even at the Commission itself.

The culmination of this contempt occurred when President Keker denied Delagnes the opportunity to make a public statement, fearing that it would be too inciteful and have no redeeming validity.

"This is not the time," Keker told Delagnes, referring to the mood of the Andaya lynch mob, and thus dashing all confidence our Vice President may have had in the Commissioner's sense of fair play.

Delagnes went on to relate to the HRC how he then led the exasperated POA contingency out of the audito-

*"...declared that there would be a moment of silence observed in honor of Aaron Williams. This outraged POA members, and some of them shouted out the names of slain police officers in protest. That in turn agitated those who had stood to the memory of Williams, and the solemn moment deteriorated, reverberating through with indictments and denunciations."*

cern on the part of the HRC. President Cunnie moved to allay their concerns by assuring the panel that he had personally contacted members of the Williams family and made himself available to them to discuss any issue associated with that case. He added that the POA sympathizes with the family's loss, and wishes no disrespect or ill will to any of them. It was the implication of police wrongdoing in the call for a moment of silence that incensed the POA faithful.

Cunnie justified their reaction by explaining that the Williams incident was perceived by the membership as an unfortunate failure of police department procedure, but that the officers involved had been made the

he personally would have denounced and condemned the POA person responsible. He was adamant: The POA is not a racist organization; does not tolerate racist behavior, racist speech, or racist philosophies.

As for the article in the *Notebook*, none of the executive board conceded that there was any racism implicit in the content of the piece written by former editor Tom Flippin. The story, titled The Little Earl Who Cried Wolf was a humorous bit of satire that poked fun at the police administration. It was enjoyed by many readers and not once complained about by anyone in the rank and file.

But Barbara Attard took particular issue with the thrust of the content,



*“But Barbara Attard took particular issue with the thrust of the content, saying it was the most blatant piece of racist writing that had ever appeared on the pages of [the Notebook.] She wondered if the controversy generated over the article was the reason for a change of editorship, inferring that the POA had somehow acknowledged the impropriety of the piece by replacing [Editor] Flippin.”*

saying it was the most blatant piece of racist writing that had ever appeared on the pages of our publication. She wondered if the controversy generated over the article was the reason for a change of editorship, inferring that the POA had somehow acknowledged the impropriety of the piece by replacing Flippin.

This was denied, and the HRC was advised that the POA supports the rights of all our members to use the association paper as a vehicle for expression and commentary.

As a final, gratuitous statement Attard also decreed that the “code of silence” was a very real phenomenon within the police ranks and the POA, possibly suggesting that the truth about the Police Commission meeting was not being completely revealed in the testimony of the POA officers.

**POA Role Misunderstood**

Commissioner Jaicks, in an oddly circuitous comparison of the POA and the teacher’s union, likened our arduous defense of Marc Andaya with the defense and harboring of racist teachers by that labor organization. He wondered had we more thoughtfully screened the Andaya case, if we would have defended him as thoroughly as we did. The implications being that 1) Marc Andaya is a racist, and 2) the POA defends racist officers.

The POA, it was made clear, is a labor organization, and its fundamental role is to provide support and representation to its membership regardless of social or political implications.

Jaicks went on to say that his impression is that people in minority communities mistrust and fear San

Francisco police. His evidence is the conversations he has had with people of color throughout the city.

POA reps denied this to be a common sentiment, adding that SFPD officers work in all corners of this city, and are appreciated the most in the minority neighborhoods. And if there was any wholesale anti-police sentiment in those areas it was not evident in city elections, as the POA has traditionally gained its strongest voter support from the Bayview, Mission, and Chinatown polling booths.

**Here We Go Again!**

That was the frustrated reaction of Treasurer Jack Minkel to the charge of institutional racism permeating the SFPD and the POA. He criticized those within the community, the administration, and city government who persistently use racism and bias as a way to divide and polarize San Francisco police officers. Minkel decried this conspiracy of ignorance, the jaded, preconceived perspective of people who refuse to acknowledge or give credit to the department and the POA

for long ago confronting those issues and moving forward in unity.

**POA Cooperation Applauded**

In the end the HRC admitted they had heard an earful from our side of the table. Each of the three commissioners thanked the POA for appearing before their panel. Commissioner Knutzen commented that she felt that the POA was an identified influence in both the police department as well as other areas of city life, and suggested that cooperation between the POA and the HRC would be advantageous to the people of San Francisco.

In closing, President Cunnie expressed his thanks to the commission for the opportunity to demonstrate to them that the POA is not a racist band of thugs bent on victimizing the people of San Francisco. Indeed, we are an organization that feels we are a dynamic part of the community.

The finding of the HRC committee is pending, and will be reported here upon release.

*“Here We Go Again!  
That was the frustrated reaction of Treasurer Jack Minkel to the charge of institutional racism permeating the SFPD and the POA. ... Minkel decried this conspiracy of ignorance, the jaded, preconceived perspective of people who refuse to acknowledge or give credit to the department and the POA for long ago confronting those issues and moving forward in unity.”*

# Cultured Times

By Ed Browne

It’s a new year, but some things never seem to change. Our young and life-inexperienced mayor, Gavin Newsom, continues to believe and states to a nation that a subculture of racist, sexist, and homophobic cops run amok in San Francisco. “Enough is enough,” he barks to reporters, as the cameras roll. “We need to systemically change the culture within the Police Department,” he demands. National news, headlines galore, talk show spat. Everyone gets their two cents on videogate.

The cops be dammed. Barbarian hordes out of control and humanly insensitive to the diverse community they serve. More sensitivity training is needed some say. Cultural diversity also, rings another. “This culture thing has to stop,” says the mayor. The nation waits. The class war has begun.

**Commentary**

Culture as a noun. A refined understanding or appreciation of this. The customs, institutions and achievements of a particular nation, people or group. To know our culture is to know that we don’t run from conflict. We, as police officers are called to it. To know our culture is to know and experience courage and compassion, humility and loss of life. To know our culture is to know our bond for survival.

Our mayor is young and not of blue collar. Certainly not a city

street guy from any of the working class neighborhoods. Sorry, Pacific Heights doesn’t qualify. White collar only up there. Marin doesn’t count either. Our mayor may be cultured in the arts, but certainly not in the nuts and bolts of our communities. Our mayor will never know the helpless feeling of holding a dying child or giving CPR to a faceless accident victim. He will never know the intense fear of fighting for his life against a career criminal. He will never experience the adrenaline of driving code three through the streets to aid a senior citizen robbery victim or to aid another officer in desperate need of help.

Our culture in the police department is the fabric of our society. We are the keepers of the city. Men and women sworn by oath to serve and protect regardless of race or creed. We are blue collar, blue blood and wear the blue uniform that so proudly distinguishes us from any other city agency. To condemn the officers of this department as culturally racist, sexist and homophobic is a travesty and an injustice towering well beyond the shadow of any controversial video.

Our mayor must try to understand that to serve the community in an effective manner and to make everyday life a little easier for its diverse people and to problem solve, he must attempt to understand and accept that the culture within the police department is who we are as a collective people, doing a thankless and dangerous job within our community.



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“Your Choice for San Francisco.”

**Al McCarthy**  
SFPD Member  
1975-2004  
(Retired-Airport Division)



(415) 246-1753  
Note: Word has it that Al worked for 29 years at the Airport Division without ever driving a patrol car. Does he even have a License?

**Jesse Brown**  
SFPD member  
1962-1991  
(Retired-Sick Sergeant)



(415) 990-5678  
Note: “Sick Sergeant” refers to Personnel Sergeant and does not refer to Jesse’s mental health status

**Vince Sheehan**  
SFPD Member  
1981-90  
Airport Division  
1979-81



(415) 302-2500  
Note: Vince went on vacation in Aug ‘89 and never returned. Swing Watch Lt. at Co G is still carrying him on the books.

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# Letters



## Editor –

I wanted to publicly thank all the units who participated in my uncle's – retired Robbery Inspector Tim Casey – funeral on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

From Lt. John Carlin's (Solos) bagpipe tribute to Tim, to the Color Guard of mounted officers with Sgt. Phil Downs, to the escort provided by the Solo m/c officers with Sgts. Guinan, Pursley, Lawson, and Koniaris, you all made Tim's wife Kay and daughter Patti extremely proud of how much you thought of Tim on his last ride into the City.

We cannot thank you enough. You are truly the "Finest" – the Best!

*Thank you,*

**Tom O'Connell for the Casey Clan**

## Editor –

I just wanted to congratulate you on your fine editorial in this month's POA paper. I'm so happy that Bob McKee got special recognition. It is so important that the membership be aware of the type of selfless dedication that Bob gave to so many police organizations. He was truly someone to emulate, not only as a policeman, but as a family man and friend. I am privileged to have known Bob and served with him on the Widows and Orphans Board of Trustees.

Talking with Bob was like a living history lesson. He had enough stories to fill a very entertaining book. I will miss him.

**Mike Kemmitt**  
*SF Widows and Orphans Aid Association*

## POA –

Happy Holidays and Thanks again!

Thank you so very much for the gifts this year. We appreciate it so much.

**The Stasko Family**

## Dear SFPOA –

I cannot thank you enough for the incredibly generous support of UCSF Children's Hospital, but I'm going to try.

It was humbling that you and the entire POA made the financial gift to the Tree Lighting on top of what you have already done with the Giants. Your visits to the kids in the hospital, etc.

Please express my gratitude to the brave members of the POA, both for their work in keeping San Francisco safe, and for helping the most vulnerable through your financial support – the sick kids in this Children's Hospital.

All the best wishes for the holidays.

*Sincerely,*  
**Mark Laret**  
*UCSF Children's Hospital*

## Dear POA –

Thank you for faithfully remembering us at Christmas time with

your generous gifts. We are using some of the money to buy Christmas gifts for children in the pediatric ward at UCSF. We know what it is like to spend the holidays in the hospital so we are happy to be able to bring some cheer to others.

*Happy Holidays!*

**Kevin and Dan Hallisy**

## Dear POA Family –

Thank very much. We are so fortunate to be remembered so generously by so many.

Wishing you love, peace, and joy and good health in 2006.

**The Kracke Family**  
**Jim, Will, & Garrett**

## Dear POA –

Thank you so much for remembering us during the holidays. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Happy Holidays to you and yours. BE SAFE!

*Love,*

**Kristin Olcomendy**

## [Dear POA –]

Thank you for thinking of us. I appreciate it.

*Love,*

**Melissa [Olcomendy]**

## [Dear POA –]

Thanks for thinking of us.

**Frank [Olcomendy]**

## Dear POA –

Thank you for your recent contribution to my senate campaign efforts. Your support provides the financial help needed to continue my work as the senate's leader.

A year of challenges and opportunity awaits the legislature, just as the year past was one of partisanship and a needless, costly statewide special election.

The governor personally offered his commitment to work with the senate and assembly, not at cross-purposes. His is a welcome change of attitude. We both believe that passing a comprehensive, sizable transportation and infrastructure bond should be the centerpiece of our efforts. Since this requires bipartisan support, the bond will act as the "canary in the mine" to determine if his rhetoric can become reality.

For my part, I am determined not to waste another year. I will work tirelessly with the governor to solve problems and make tough decisions. Your support makes it possible for me to do so.

I wish you the greetings of the season and a peaceful New Year.

*Best wishes,*  
**Don Perata**  
*President Pro Tem California State Senate*

## Dear SFPOA –

On behalf of the men and women of the Reserve Officers, I would like

to thank the POA for your generous contribution to the upcoming Reserve Appreciation dinner.

Your sponsorship of this worthwhile event is very important to show our appreciation to the Reserve Officers. Each of the Reserve Officers volunteers hundreds of hours of their time, each year, assisting the police department and working with the fulltime members of the department.

This donation will help offset the cost of this dinner and is greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely,*

**Craig Tom**

*Reserve Coordinator*

*San Francisco Police Department*

## Dear POA –

Thank you so very much for your kind and generous gift for our residents here at Rose Court. We will use this wonderful gift to assure that all our people have what they need to celebrate the holiday season. Your gift is deeply appreciated and I am grateful for your support.

We serve both seniors and families here so the needs are diverse. Folks are grateful for what they have but your gift provides an added kindness.

Thank you for your support in addition to the fine service you provide for us daily in this city. I assure you of my prayers for many blessings during this holiday season.

*Sincerely,*

**Sister Cathryn deBack, O. P.**

*Resident Manager - Rose Court*

## Dear POA

Thank you for the gift to be used in support of the San Francisco Public Library.

The support of the San Francisco Police Officers Association means that we can continue to help build and sustain an exemplary public library system. We are committed to raising the standard of excellence of our library system by funding programs and services beyond what is allocated in the City's budget, and making the San Francisco Public Library a valuable resource that all San Franciscans can access and enjoy. The gift of the San Francisco Police Officers Association is making an important difference in the lives of all the children, teens, and adults who use the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you again for your gift to the library which will support outstanding library programs and services for the citizens of San Francisco.

*Best regards,*

**Donna Bero**

*Executive Director*

*Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*

## Dear POA –

Thank you and all of the members of the SFPOA Scholarship Committee for the monetary gift sent to Cal State Northridge to defray some of my tuition costs. Your financial support has contributed greatly to my educational pursuit, and I will be forever grateful for your generosity.

*Sincerely,*

**Richard Mammone**

## Dear Friend of the USO:

On behalf of those we serve, I want to thank you for your recent gift to the USO. Of all the contributions we have received over the past 12 months, very few have been as generous as yours. It places you among a small group of our most important donors who are deserving of the highest level of recognition we can bestow.

More importantly, your gift has helped us continue to provide urgently needed services – not only to our fighting men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also to their families left at home – suddenly without a mother, or a father, or in some cases both.

I've seen first-hand the magic your gifts can perform... the relieved look on the face of an exhausted GI as she finds a USO Center in a strange land... the awkward grin of a young Marine when a famous rock star shakes his sandy hand and says, "Thanks! We're here for you. You're the real star!"... the warm feeling that comes from a cold Coke on a hot day in the desert, served with a friendly smile and an encouraging word. And nothing compares to the face of a child when Mommy or Daddy calls home from "the War."

For all of us at the USO, and for our troops overseas and their families here at home, thank you for your generosity!

*With my warm and heartfelt gratitude,*

**Edward A. Powell**

*President and CEO*

*USO World Headquarters*

## Dear POA –

The OMI District had a wonderful Thanksgiving thanks to your generosity and commitment. The Police Officers Association donation of turkeys contributed to a day consisting of endless smiles. In addition, the coordinated efforts made the delivery and distribution of the turkeys fairly simple.

Once again thank you for your assistance in making this Thanksgiving Holiday so wonderful for the families in the OMI District.

*Sincerely,*

**Helen M. Birch, M.Ed. LPC**

*Director, OMI Family Resource Center*

## Dear POA –

We just received your wonderful gift supporting San Francisco Suicide Prevention. All of us want you to know how touched and grateful we are.

This year the combined forces of a troubled economy and a surging community need are sending more and more people to our phone lines.

But a gift like yours makes all the difference. Each dollar is a few more precious minutes of hope for someone you will never know. Another light beaming in the darkness.

*Sincerely yours,*

**Eve R. Meyer**

*Executive Director*

*San Francisco Suicide Prevention*

## Dear POA –

On behalf of myself and the San Francisco City College Board of Trustees, I wish to thank you for your generous support to the Yes on Measure A – Support our City College Campaign.

Your contribution allowed us to execute a strategic direct mail and grassroots effort which successfully



passed Measure A on November 8,2005, with a 64% approval rating. We are most grateful for your support and leadership.

Best regards,  
Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr.,  
Chancellor,  
City College of San Francisco

Dear SFPOA –

Thank you so much for your generous gift to benefit San Francisco SME, Inc.-your financial contribution will be used for our Red Ribbon program.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Wandel  
Executive Director, San Francisco SAFE

Dear POA –

On behalf of the clients we serve and our board of directors, thank you for being a Tee sponsor at our 7th Annual Kops for Kids Golf Classic. As you may know the Golf Classic is one of the primary source of funds for our programs, the Kops for Kids Youth Mentoring Program, and the Positive Mental Attitudes Seminars and Sports Clinics. Thanks to people like you we were able to reach this year's KFK Golf Classic's financial goal of\$9,000. This means that we will b able to fully fund our programs in the coming year.

Last year we reached over 1,500 youth through our programs. With help like we will be able to continue to help the at-risk youth in the coun-ty. The will help us provide youth living in at-risk environments with role models, examples, and messages of positive growth and direction. Thank you again for your gener-

ous support. We appreciate you part-nering with us to make a difference in people's lives.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Hunter  
Executive Director  
Contra Costa Police Athletic Association

Letter to BALEAF

Dear BALEAF,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1500. The funds were used towards the purchase of our daugh-ter's FM System (assistive listening device).

The FM System used along with Michaela's hearing aids will help her overcome three major obstacles to speech understanding: noise, distance and reverberation. The device is extremely beneficial for Michaela especially at school. It al-lows her to have better access to her teacher's voice during class instruc-tion. Without the FM she would not have access to information due to background noise which, ultimately, would affect her academic perfor-mance.

We were very fortunate that Mi-chaela was able to borrow a used and dated FM System. But now, thanks to BALEAF Michaela has one of her own. We can't thank you enough for your generous gift.

Michaela is currently in the 3rd grade. Her first letter grade report card indicates she is a B+ student! You will always be remembered as part of Michaela's ongoing success.

Sincerely,  
The Lantrip Family

Monthly Luncheon #2  
Of the soon-to-be-infamous  
FOOTHILL FUZZ  
Monday, January 9, 2006

Our inaugural monthly luncheon held last month in Auburn was an unqualified success with over 30 attendees trading stories, memories and lies!  
Our next luncheon will be held on the other side of the Continental Divide at:

"Casa Ramos" Mexican Restaurant  
6840 Greenleaf Drive, Placerville  
(South side of Hwy 50 at the Missouri Flat Off Ramp)

Attitude adjustment at 11:00 hours, Lunch around 12:30 hours

ATTENDANCE is strictly limited to retired or active members of the SFPD or ANY other law enforcement agency or their friends. (Did I leave anyone out?)

Please RSVP Rene LaPrevotte at (530) 295-0946 or [rlavrevotte@comcast.net](mailto:rlavrevotte@comcast.net)

Remember, if you don't go – you won't be there...

Former Members of the San Francisco Police  
Department Living in Northern California

One-hundred Seventeenth Luncheon Meeting  
Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 11am  
4th Tuesday-every four months

MICHELE'S 7th & Adams Sts. Santa Rosa, CA 707-542-2577  
Take Downtown Exit from Hwy 101 (North or South Bound)  
West side of Freeway near Railroad Square

Menu

Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, Coffee (Tax & Tip) \$18.00

Thanks again for the great turnout. It seemed to work out well for us. I'm hoping to get some new blood in the group and some help from some young guys in the future. See you on January 24th.

E-mail Al Richterman with your response. [alandot@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alandot@sbcglobal.net).

Thank You, Joe Giacomini (916) 939-2060

September Attendance 78

Retirement Dinner Honoring

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6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hosted Bar 7:00 PM Dinner

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Payment/Reservations: by January 1, 2006 (No Door Sales)  
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Lt. Garrett Tom	Co. G	666-8000
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Anniversary Party Steak Fry

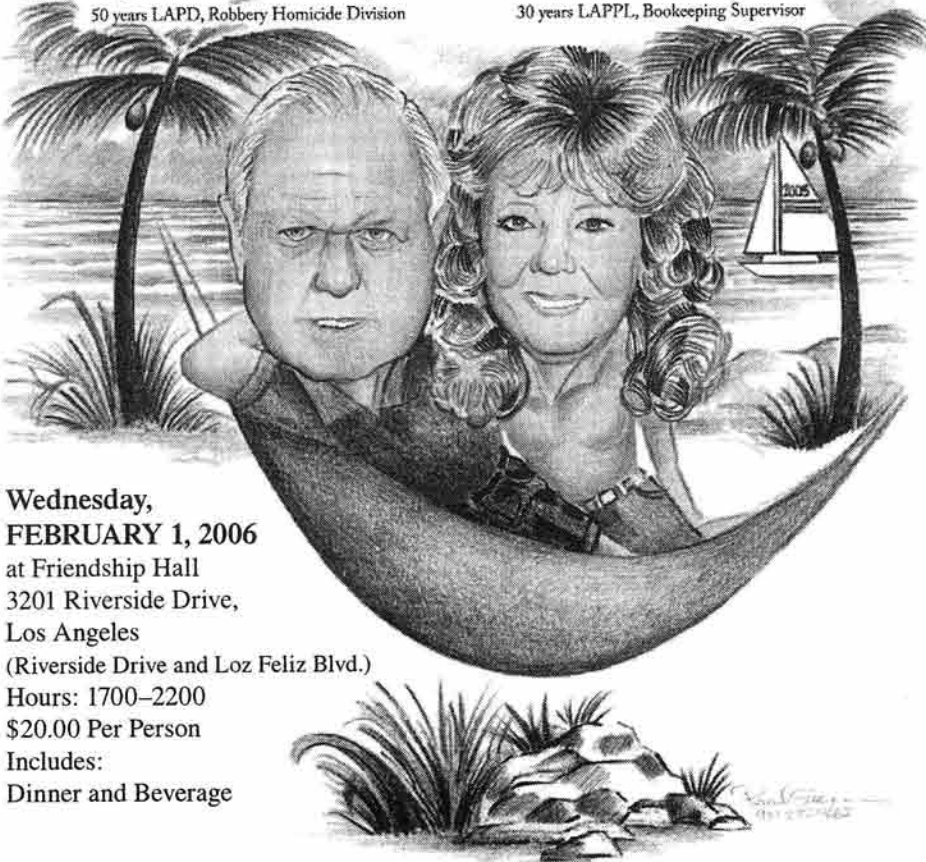
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For Tickets contact:

Lt. Jim Grayson, Bret Richards, Mike Gannon or Donna Corrales at Robbery Homicide  
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# Open Letter of Commentary

## To My Fellow Officers,

I find myself wondering once again just what the heck is going on in this department. It seems that if you are below the rank of Lieutenant you are held to a much higher standard, and that the rules are only meant to apply to the hard working street officers.

I was talking to Sgt. Banta a couple of months ago and noticed that he was very frustrated with the Department and the way it handles its problems involving its members. I asked Ron what had changed in his life that has made him so angry. Ron told me about an incident that had occurred in 2003. The incident involved an off-duty Lieutenant. Ron told me that he followed all the rules set up by the department and the orders of the Night Captain at the time. Ron went on to say that this incident had cost him a promotion and the loss of two good officers that worked for him at the time of this incident. The two officers have since left the department.

I noticed that there was a piece of paper in front of Ron, which was addressed to him. I quickly looked

at the letter and noticed that it was his disposition letter from the Chief. The letter basically ordered Ron to attend training in Ethics and Leadership. I asked Ron what this was about. He told me that his complaint that was generated by OCC was returned Not Sustained but that he was still being punished.

I was appalled and angered by the fact that this Chief questioned Ron's ability to lead and his ethics. I've known Ron for over 20 years and I have never questioned his ability to lead his officers or his ethics. I asked Ron what happened to the Lieutenant and the Night Captain who had ordered Ron to leave the off-duty Lieutenant's name out of the original report. The Lieutenant is still working and collecting a pay check, and the Night Captain at the time is now assigned to the Airport Detail and collecting acting Commander pay when the Commander is absent. Interesting. The Night Captain gets a promotion and the Lieutenant's case will probably be dragged out until he can retire.

As for Ron? He still works the midnight shift in the Tenderloin with a black mark on his record.

Fair? Not even close.

Just when you think things can't get any worse, the Chief recommends termination for Officer Tony Nelson for an incomplete police report. Wow! What is she doing?.

Oh, and finally the so-called Potrero tape scandal. It wasn't a scandal until the Chief and Mayor made it one. I would really like to know what went through her mind when she and the Mayor decided to release footage of this tape to the press. Did they take into consideration that just maybe by releasing this tape they might put officers' lives in danger in the Potrero and wreck other officers' personal lives? What happened with due process and investigating the incident before condemning the officers involved? I guess we are now guilty until proven innocent.

Oh, and Chief Fong, a dark day in this department is when an officer is killed in the line of duty, not when a tape is made which depicts officers making fun of themselves. As Chief, you should have known better than to follow the Mayor down this anti police road. You have obviously forgotten that you are a Police Officer

first and not a political puppet for the Mayor.

The real victims of this current scandal are the hard working cops of the Bayview District and the citizens they try to protect. This department needs a strong non-political Chief. If you can't be that maybe you should step down while we still have hard working officers willing to work here.

Mr. Newsom, maybe if you would stop living in your fantasy world you would realize that attacking your local police department is not always the smartest thing to do. If you think you can judge the hard working men and women of this department you are very mistaken. We've seen more in our careers than you will see in your entire life. Try walking in our shoes for a couple of years before you label us racist, sexist and homophobes – your words not mine.

In other words, grow up and get some real life experiences under your belt before you criticize us.

God bless, and be safe out there!

**Sergeant Patrick Tobin**  
Tenderloin Station

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## ON THE SAFE SIDE.....

### SAFE Begins Lunar New Year Crime & Extortion Campaign

**S**AFE's Campaign - In 1997, SAFE, together with the Captain of Central Station of SFPD mapped out a safety awareness campaign to educate the merchants to break their silence and to help stamp out the extortion cycles in Chinatown as well other parts of San Francisco. Since then, the campaign has been established as an annual city-wide crime prevention campaign in which SAFE and other agencies work together with the SFPD and other law enforcement agencies, sponsoring two high-profile Press Conferences in Chinatown and the Richmond or Sunset Districts. Each year, SAFE canvasses the businesses door-to-door, and distributes around 2,000 information packages to the Asian merchants, and 5,000 red packets containing safety tips against robbery and pick-pocketing. We also hand out information on law-enforcement resources and their telephone numbers. There is a growing willingness to cooperate with the police after years of public education efforts. Extortion has not been entirely stamped out, but the crime trend is subsiding into isolated cases.

This year's Public Safety Kick-off Press Conference will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the gates of Chinatown (Grant Ave. at Bush St.). Join SAFE, the SFPD, California Department of Corrections, San Francisco Sheriff's Department, the American Red Cross, Community Youth Center and other volunteers as

we canvass Chinatown after the press conference and distribute crime prevention materials to all of the merchants in the area. Thank you to the above partners and the Asian Firefighters Association for their involvement and sponsorship. For more information, contact David Chan at SAFE: (415) 553-1985 or david@sfsafe.org.



### SAFE Celebrates 30 Years of Crime Prevention and Public Safety Services! 1976 - 2006

SAFE is celebrating three decades of service, and invites you to join us at our 30th Anniversary Fundraiser and Awards Dinner, on April 27, 2006. Save the Date! SAFE's first-of-its-kind event will commemorate past achievements, acknowledge others who share our mission, and look toward the challenges ahead. We are honored to have San Francisco Police Chief Heather Fong as our Honorary Chair for this event.

We will also present SAFE Awards to those whose significant and outstanding contributions to crime prevention and public safety have made San Francisco a safer place to live, work, and play. To nominate a community member, law enforcement officer, or organization, please visit our website at [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org) for guidelines and the nomination form. Or contact Cindy Wandel, Executive Director, at (415) 553-1981. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

The event and dinner will be held at the new California Culinary Academy at 350 Rhode Island Street. Join us for a great meal, music, raffle prizes, awards... and fun!

For more information on SAFE and our services, please call (415) 553-1984, or visit our website at [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org).



## Book Reviews

### Death In A Strange Country

By Donna Leon

Penguin Edition 2005, pp 373

Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

Although I have visited Italy on previous occasions, I had never been in Venice until this year. It is not just unique, with its canals instead of streets and avenues, with its boats and bicycles instead of cars and buses, but it is also very complex in its construction and social mores. There is a clear acceptance, if not out right expectation of corruption at all levels. There is a clear "live and let live" philosophy at work wherever one goes. Prices fluctuate quickly, depending upon one's willingness to participate in the process. The author Donna Leon is an American who has lived in Venice for many years and has been writing a series of "police procedurals" since approximately 1993. Her protagonist for the series is Commisario Guido Brunetti of the Venice Police. Leon and Brunetti make clear that the corruption one senses in Venice is real and continuous.

A reader could begin reading the Guido Brunetti series with any title that appeals but one should know in advance that Brunetti and his wonderful family age a bit as the years roll by, as it should be. This particular title was selected as it involves the murder of a United States Army Sergeant, assigned to the nearby army post of Vicenza. This particular site is one of the larger U.S. military posts in Europe. For several years the author taught at military bases such as this in Europe, and has a very good grasp of that environment. She is also a great tour director, taking the reader through the labyrinth of waterways, byways, churches and palazzi. If you have visited Venice you will clearly recognize where the story is, and if you haven't you will find yourself more tempted to go see the city for yourself.

As in most of the Brunetti series, the Commisario is thwarted in his attempts at thorough police procedure due to the fears of his boss, the Vice Questore Patta, who believes that too much attention might be drawn to the murder and hence, hurt tourism, Venice's lifeblood. Or is it more than that? Is there a puppeteer pulling Patta's strings? Some of the dialogue between Patta and Brunetti is so filled with dry wit you'll think that alone was worth the price of the book. The story has so many dead or false leads, much like real police work, that the reader is always re-evaluating, "what exactly is going on here?" It becomes obvious to Brunetti that he is intentionally being misled, and he plays along with the misdirection, hoping to see where it will all lead. A second murder takes place, but this one appears to be an overdose of narcotics, which further compounds Brunetti's ability to uncover who is behind all of this. The author delves into the relationship between police work, the military and women, as the overdose victim is a female American military doctor who may have had a relationship with the murdered sergeant. Brunetti, a happily married man, finds this doctor a most interesting subject and his re-telling of his work to his wife, especially regarding the woman doctor, provides for some humorous repartee. As with all of Leon's books,

the scenes at home also provide some mouth-watering descriptions of typical Venetian cuisine.

Also, as in Leon's other books with Commisario Brunetti, the story is filled with cranky humor on Brunetti's part as he uncovers yet another aspect of the corruption within his city. Brunetti is in the process of crossing the city on foot and, as usual, the streets are crammed with tourists. I recognized the truth to this description of too many people on too small a place, but the Commisario has the last laugh. "Each year, it grew harder to have patience with them, to put up with their stop-and-go walking, with their insistence on walking three abreast, even in the narrowest calle. There were times when he wanted to scream at them, even push them aside, but he contented himself by taking out all of aggression through the single expedient of refusing to stop or in any way alter his walking in order to allow them a photo-opportunity. Because of this, he was sure his body, back, face, elbow appeared in hundreds of photos and videos; he sometimes contemplated the disappointed Germans, looking at the their summer videos during the violence of a North Sea storm, as they watched a purposeful, dark-suited Italian walk in front of Tante Gerda or Onkel Frits, blurring, if only for an instant the vision of sun-burned, Lederhosen-clad, sturdy thighs as they posed upon the rialto Bridge, in front of the doors of the Basilica of San Marco, or beside a particularly charming cat. He lived here, damn it, so they could wait for their stupid pictures until he got past them, or they could take home a picture of a real Venetian, probably the closest any of them would come to making contact with the city in any significant way." This little fit of pique is somewhat unusual for Brunetti, but typical in the way he subtly works his way through a case or around Venice.

I found this book to be equal in entertainment and thought provoking qualities as Donna Leon's several other books. The Brunetti series was written more than ten years ago and was very successful in many parts of Europe; successful enough to finally be published here in the United States by Penguin Books. Pick one up and give it a try but don't blame me if you find yourself headed on an expensive vacation in Venice after finishing the reading. I would understand you doing so, but, really, it's Leon's fault. She's that good.

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Ben Luttringer Cheryl Binney  
760 Market Street, Room 1040  
San Francisco, CA 94102

### The Devil In The White City

By Erik Larson

Publisher: Rand McNally, 435 pages

Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

This book has been out for some time, but I only recently picked it up. Upon finishing it I asked myself, "What were you waiting for?" This is one great read. The problem would be to decide under which subject category it should be listed. It is a very detailed and informative history of the United States at the end of the 19th Century. As such, it contains great social studies of the country and its people, famous, infamous and unknown. It also reads like a great police procedural, with the story of one of the country's most prolific serial killers running amok in Chicago while the 1892-1893 World's Fair, The World's Columbian Exposition, was being built and operating. It addresses architecture and architects, specifically one of the greatest of his era, Daniel P. Burnham, alongside the landscape architectural genius, Frederick L. Olmstead, the creator of Central Park in New York City. It matters not in which section you might find it in a bookstore, it qualifies as fascinating and fun.

*Few characters, fictitious or otherwise, have ever seemed more chilling on the page.*

The tale of the building of the World's Fair of 1892-1893 is a great story by itself. The competition between Chicago and New York to be the site, along with the effort to best Paris' recent extravaganza, ala the Eiffel Tower, gives the reader an idea that some things don't change. Chicago is still thought of as a "second city" in relationship to New York, and France is still a difficult and uneasy ally. The tenacity of Burnham was truly impressive, as he dealt with every conceivable problem: city government, bankers, the weather, labor unions and petty jealousies. Many lesser folks would have tossed in the towel much earlier, but Burnham's fame is not found solely upon his great ideas but also upon his delivering of those ideas.

At the same time another fellow of equal determination but with diabolic intentions was busy at work in Chicago. H.H. Holmes, a glib, charming young doctor was busy building a hotel, allegedly to house the tremendous influx of people moving to Chicago, looking for work at the Fair. The reality behind Dr. Holmes' hotel was a house of horrors. Four years earlier, in London, England, Jack the Ripper

aroused tremendous fear by murdering five young "women of the streets." Dr. Holmes methodically murdered many times more. The estimates range from 20 to 200, but many of his victims were reduced to ashes within the crematorium he had built in the basement of the hotel. Unlike The Ripper, he didn't leave his victims to be found. Because of the great turmoil of the times and place he was able to convince the few people who came looking for the victims that the missing had moved on, perhaps to greener pastures? Few characters, fictitious or otherwise, have ever seemed more chilling on the page. His eventual arrest, the culmination of dogged police work by a seasoned detective, creates in the reader a shout of "Yes. At last!"

All the while, Larson peppers the book with names of people from the era who contributed either directly or influenced the era and the fair: The particularly colorful William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Thomas Edison, Susan B. Anthony, Archduke Ferdinand and many others that made the Gilded Age what it was, and added to the drama and energy. There's a third, minor plot running through the book, that of a delusional politico "wannabe,"

Patrick Pedergrast who turns into an assassin.

If there is one complaint it would be that there were far too few photos of the Fair itself. The few I saw in the paperback version only whetted my appetite to see more. This was likely due to Larson's frequent references to the architecture not only of the Fair, but also of Holmes' hotel/death chamber. A short paragraph describing Chicago at the time entices the reader to imagine such a wild and wide-open city:

"The women walked to work on streets that angled past bars, gambling houses and bordellos. Vice thrived, with official indulgence. 'The parlors and bedrooms in which honest folks lived were, as now, rather dull places,' wrote Ben Hecht, later in his life, trying to explain this persistent trait of old Chicago. It was pleasant, in a way, to know that outside their window, the devil was still capering in a flare of brimstone.' In an analogy that was all too apt, Max Weber likened the city to, 'a human being with the skin removed.'"

Can you resist reading more? I think you shouldn't.

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## Honolulu Police Rank And File Pan Chief In Union's Survey

From The Honolulu Advertiser,  
December 13

HONOLULU, HI – Most officers who filled out a survey commissioned by the local police officers union expressed dissatisfaction with the leadership of Honolulu Police Chief Boisse Correa, according to the survey results.

According to results, released yesterday, 76.1 percent stated Correa “never or almost never communicates accurately or precisely with them,” while 73.7 percent stated Correa “never or almost never works well with line officers toward common goals.”

In addition, more than 78 percent

of the survey participants said morale was so low that they always or almost always wished they had a different police chief.

The 15-question survey was mailed in November to 1,877 members of the State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers, O'ahu chapter, who had two weeks to complete the survey. About 56.9 percent, or 1,068 officers, completed the survey.

Correa yesterday declined to answer questions about the survey but attacked its validity in a written statement released by a spokesperson.

“I have been told that no measures were taken to prevent multiple responses, and several of the statements

were ambiguous. Despite those and other shortcomings, the results were used to make serious claims about my ability to lead this department,” the statement said. “If morale were as low as the survey claims, I would expect to see a high number of officers leaving, an increase in complaints and other changes. In fact, our vacancy rate is the lowest it has been in over a decade, complaints from the public are down, and the number of officers who have been disciplined is consistent with previous years.”

He added, “Police chiefs frequently need to make decisions that not everyone will agree with. However difficult those decisions may be, I will never compromise my integrity or the department's integrity for the sake of my popularity.”

Of those officers who responded to the survey, 474, or 44 percent, included written comments.

The written comments were “overwhelmingly negative with few exceptions,” wrote William Puette, director of the Center for Labor Education & Research at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu and author of an analysis that accompanied the survey results.

“The perception that the chief lacks appropriate leadership skills is widespread and demoralizing,” Puette wrote. “The fact that the worst assessments were in the areas of communication, working with the officers toward common goals, inspirational leadership, fairness, and professional pride should indicate the need for efforts to improve communication and team-building between management and the officers.”

Puette could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The SHOPO survey results contrast sharply with the views expressed by

the Honolulu Police Commission in its formal review of Correa, which was released last week. The seven-member commission commended Correa for good management, leadership and his ability to communicate with the commission.

Ron Taketa, chairman of the commission, declined comment yesterday, saying it would be inappropriate to discuss the results until every commission member had time to review them.

SHOPO O'ahu chapter chairman Alex Garcia declined to be interviewed about the survey results yesterday.

“The numbers speak for themselves,” he wrote in his online journal, [www.honolulupoliceunion.com](http://www.honolulupoliceunion.com). “As you can see, there are several areas of concern that have been identified by the membership and must be addressed by the administration. SHOPO has already met and discussed these issues with the administration and we have scheduled a series of meetings with Chief Correa to address these concerns beginning immediately.”

Deputy Chiefs Glen Kajiya and Paul Putzulu received the survey results from SHOPO on Friday. Copies of the survey results and analysis also were distributed to the police commission and Mayor Mufi Hannemann.

Hannemann expressed concern about the dueling perceptions of Correa.

“While it seems the chief has good communication with the management staff, it seems the communication with the rank and file is not that strong,” said Hannemann through a spokesperson. “Because it's (the survey) from the rank and file, it's something the chief should take seriously. I also hope the police commission takes these issues seriously and looks into it.”

## Police Union Rejects City's Proposal To Lure Recruits With Cash Bonuses

From The Press-Enterprise,  
December 10

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – The president of San Bernardino's police union Friday rejected a City Council proposal to offer cash bonuses to police officers recruited from other agencies and to hire retirees in order to put more officers on the street.

“For the price they're willing to pay, those could be entry-level police positions,” Rich Lawhead said. “What this comes down to is, we need more cops, not a Band-Aid approach.”

Council members had made the proposal Monday, saying they are the best they can do immediately to put more police on the streets to counter a wave of killings.

Informed of the union's position Friday, City Councilwoman Susan Lien Longville gasped.

“They're not going for it? They're not going for it?” she said, her voice rising. “I'm stunned. This shows a

lack of concern for the city's financial resources and it's going to hurt the citizens. It's a shame.”

San Bernardino averages a killing per week. A spate of recent violence, including a shooting that took the life of a little girl, has focused public attention on the issue.

Hiring retired officers and offering bonuses could cost the city about \$600,000 annually, an expense council members said they're willing to pay.

Without restructuring the budget, they lack funds to hire the 50 additional officers and up to 15 civilian employees Police Chief Garrett Zimmon has requested.

Lawhead said city leaders need to make that commitment.

“The city bought off on a strategic plan,” he said. “When are they going to hire the cops? They need to give (Zimmon) a chance to make his program work. We can't do it with a Band Aid.”

## Fired Officer Charged With Taser Partner In Argument Over Soft Drink

From The Detroit Free Press,  
December 8

A fired Hamtramck police officer was charged Wednesday with assault and battery for allegedly discharging a Taser weapon at his partner last month during an argument in their patrol car.

Ronald Dupuis, 32, of Allen Park was charged with the 93-day misdemeanor by Wayne County prosecutors. He is making arrangements to be arraigned, possibly later this week, according to Hamtramck Police Chief James Doyle.

Dupuis, a 6-year employee, is accused of firing the Taser at his female partner during a Nov. 3 argument.

Doyle fired him about a week later.

A police report indicates Dupuis and his partner, Prema Graham, began arguing after Dupuis demanded she stop the patrol car at a convenience store so he could purchase a soft drink. Graham wanted to get back to the police station and drove past the store.

At some point, the pair began arguing and struggling over the steering

wheel, according to the report.

At one point, Dupuis used his department-issued Taser weapon to strike Graham in the leg near the intersection of Holbrook and Conant, prosecutors said.

She was not seriously injured.

The Hamtramck Police Department began using Taser weapons about two years ago.


Resembling a small pistol, a Taser stun gun delivers a shock which can immobilize a person.

Doyle declined comment, except to say that the matter is an ongoing investigation.

Attorney Eugene Bolanowski, who represents Hamtramck police officers on labor relations matters, said he expects Dupuis to retain private counsel for the criminal charge.

Bolanowski said he would represent Dupuis in any possible grievance.

Dupuis has worked at several police departments in southeastern Michigan, including Southgate, Inkster, Ecorse and Highland Park. He also previously worked as a Wayne County sheriff's deputy.



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# Sports

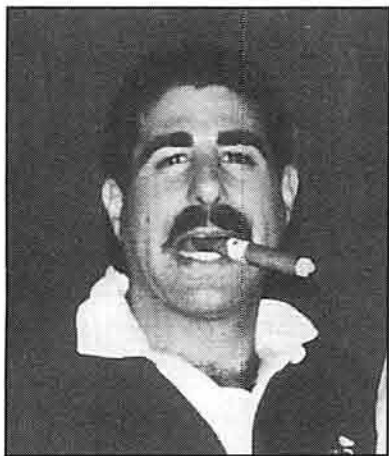


## Nick's Notes

By Nick Shihadeh,  
POA Journal Sports Editor

### More Pictures From The Hall of Fame Banquet

**C**HECK IT OUT: Note the pictures accompanying this column from the recent POA Sports Hall of Fame Dinner from early November. They're some good ones that were provided by Richmond Station's Raffy Labutan (thanks again for coming through as usual, Raf). There's been tremendous positive feedback from around the department about this new annual event and I again want to congratulate Gary Delagnes for his hard work in getting this thing off the ground. I'm looking forward to next year's dinner, so keep the suggestions of worthy candidates coming.



### Department Hoops Info

Also note the write-up and standings of the department B-ball league in this same sports section provided by new "commish" Al Honnibal (Academy). Last month I wrote about Brett "Ogle" Thorpe wanting the Northern Station team to fold so he could go and

play for Southern. I received this information from an anonymous source out of Northern and decided to find out for myself by talking to Thorpe to get his side of the story. He said that the reason he stopped playing for the Northern Bulldogs was that when they were defeated by DPT two years ago and he considered it to be the most embarrassing moment of his basketball career (not just departmentally).

Thorpe said, "That wasn't the only reason I jumped ship last year and went to play for Narcotics. I was frustrated with guys flaking all the time; and, when we did have enough to field a team, I wasn't getting the 'rock' enough to play my game the way I know how. I tried coaching them to get things rolling but it was just 'no dice' with that team. Look what happened when I went to Narcotics - we won the championship by taking down the mighty Fire Department. That pretty much speaks for itself."

According to Honnibal, at this time Thorpe can only play for Northern and there's no ifs, ands, or buts about it. Commissioner Honnibal did confirm that Northern Station hasn't won a game yet and that at least one of their losses was from forfeit. He wishes though that Thorpe would stop griping and just play for his own unit, and Honnibal has even started referring to Thorpe as "T.O." It will be interesting to see how this soap opera plays out.

### Department Softball League Going With Wooden Bats

As the softball Commish, I want to let the readers know that the rumor about wooden bats will be fact next

season, which will start in March of 2006. It's too hard to regulate the many styles of aluminum bats, and I had no choice but to follow through on a suggestion made during last season's softball banquet. The wooden bats will control how hard and how long the softball will be hit, which will be safer for the pitcher and other infielders. Also, this will bring fundamentals and defense back into the game with some teams even talking about using a rover in their outfield. When was the last time anyone in our league did that?

As far as where to get wooden bats, I've got a guy on the east coast who is a good contact. His name is Steve Trapani and he represents the Superior Bat Company in Buffalo, New York. This bat company supplies bats to major league teams such as the Yankees, Tigers, Orioles, Dodgers and Cardinals. The company appears solid and Trapani is a good guy whose father is a retired state trooper. He's giving us a good deal on bats as well.

Trapani gave me a website to take a look at the bats at "[promapleabats.com](http://promapleabats.com)" but said to contact him personally and NOT to order the bats on-line in order to get the deal. His contact numbers are: (work) 716-664-2257 or (cell) 716-499-6887. I encourage the managers of each team to call Trapani and order some bats for your particular team. I'm ordering three or four bats for the Park Station Islanders which I think will be sufficient.

An example on price is as follows: a "negative three" (-3) SB 41 goes for \$37.00. These are bats such as a 34-31 or a 33-30 (length listed first in inches and weight listed second as ounces that are only three apart). A "negative four" (-4) such as a 34-30 sized bat is a SB 56 or a SB 43 model and goes for \$45.00. A "negative five" (-5) is a SB 61 model and runs \$60.00 apiece.

These prices already include tax, and they will engrave the name of your team or station on whatever bats you order. Don't forget the shipping and handling for this, as the cost will be between \$15.00 and \$20.00 for an order of three or four bats (delivery time is approximately ten days). Remember that the start of the 2006 softball season is only a few months away, so start getting your orders in and don't forget to use my name when calling Steve.

### Megan Fahey's Half Marathon Fund Raising

Megan Fahey is one of the POA secretaries and the wife of Damien Fahey of Central Station. She's running a half-marathon on February 5, 2006, to raise money for cancer research in support of her friend Dottie McHugh who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Megan would really appreciate any donation or support that you can give for her cause. Make the checks out to "LLS" and send them to her at the POA building.

That's all for this month ..... so see ya next month.



Hall of Fame inductees, (left to right); Jim Deasy, Jr.; Tom Bruton (ret); Bill Dyer (ret); Phil Dito (ret); Dave and Randy Brandt representing the SF Police Soccer Club.



Mark Porto (ret); Ken Sandstrom (ret); Jerry Donovan (ret) and Dave Fontana



Melissa, Frank, Kristen and Andrea Olcomendy with Frank Machi (ret).



Robert Red (ret) showing his snappy glass Hall of Fame trophy





## San Francisco International Airport Charity Golf Tournament Check Presentation

By Bob Massola,  
Airport Bureau

The San Francisco International Airport Charity Golf Tournament raised \$40,000 during the Sixth Annual charity Golf Tournament held at Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae on October 3, 2005.

The check presentation ceremony was held at the Airport Museum on November 30, 2005. The two charities selected this year were Network For elders of San Francisco and the FESTA Foundation of San Mateo. Each received \$20,000.

Attending the check presentation ceremony were the Tournament board of Directors including SFPD's Airport Bureau Deputy chief Mindy Pengel, Sgt. Tom Mulkeen, Officer Al Steward and Chairperson, Officer Bob Massola.

## SFPD Basketball League

By Alan Honniball,  
Academy

The league finally got underway a little later than expected due to several stations not knowing if they were going to field a team this year. As it turns out, we have a 10-team league.

As usual, Narcotics, Southern and Park/Central are atop in the standings. Daly City is another team that has shown it belongs in the top echelon as well, due to the play of John Bender. Other top performers are Jake Fegan, who consistently puts in at least 24 points a game for Narcotics, and Eric Solares of Bayview and Officer Morris of the CHP team who are averaging 23 points a game. Mark Williams of the Tactical Unit is also having a tremendous year as he is carrying the team on his shoulders coming off a league-high 37 points in a losing cause to the Inspectors team who are led by the outside shooting of Ed Hunt.

Southern is another team which consistently plays well, with long-time standouts Rod Tong, Carl Bryant, and the surprising play of Mike Radanovich.

Park/Central, which probably has the best team on paper, is led by Kevin Murray, Dave Do, the Costello brothers, and Ed Hagen.

Northern is a tough team to figure out. If they get their full team out on the court, they could have one of the best teams out there. (Thorpe, aka T-O, you can only play with Co. E.) The only problem is they haven't been able to have all their best players out there at the same time. In the meantime, Brian Guiney and Kirk Edison are holding up the team.

Taraval/Ingleside, please step it up and try to make the games. A lot of guys are coming in on their off days to play, and it really wrecks the league morale when teams forfeit without notice. I know Erik Leung of Taraval is trying to hold the team together, so get in contact with him if you want to play. Remember, anyone out there who wants to play but whose station does not have a team, is more than welcome to play for Taraval.

I know there are other players out there who are performing well but who are not mentioned, and hopefully as I get more updates I'll have a more complete analysis of the league. As I stated earlier, we will be having an All-Star Game sometime in January with details to follow. So in the meantime, if you have any problems or suggestions, let me know. Otherwise, keep playing and have fun out there.

### SFPD POA Basketball League Standings

Southern	4-0	<b>Top Scorers:</b>	
Narcotics	4-0		
Daly City	3-1	Fegan	70 points
Park/Cent	3-1	Solares	69
CHP	2-2	Morris (CHP)	67
Tactical	2-1	Bender	65
Inspectors	1-3	Williams	57
Northern	0-3	Hunt	55
Bayview	0-4	Shaffer	52
Tar/Ingl	0-4	Honnibal	51



## Sponsor Megan Fahey

### Run Megan, Run

Dear Members,

I work at the POA and am married to Damien Fahey (Central Station). I am training for a 1/2 marathon on February 5, 2006, to raise money for Leukemia and other blood cancers. So many people are affected by cancer, this is the least I can do to help. I am running in honor of a friend, Dottie McHugh, who was recently diagnosed with Leukemia.

Any donation will help and, believe me, is going to a great cause! I need to raise at least \$1800. You can donate by sending a check to me (at the POA) made out to LLS, or by going to my website: <http://www.active.com/donate/tntgtsf> and clicking on my name listed under the "Find Participant" pull down menu.

**The donation deadline is January 20, 2006.**

Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



## Letters to the Sports Editor

Hey Gary,

Just dropping you a short note to say thanks for the dinner the other night. I wasn't quite sure what to expect at one of these sports dinners, but I was certainly impressed with the turnout. It was great seeing a lot of the old guys as well as seeing the active guys. I thought you did a great job (as usual) with the presentations, keeping them short and concise, but still listing everyone's accomplishments. It seemed like everybody stayed awake through all the presentations. By the way, I appreciated all the things you made up and said about me. It sure sounded a lot better than the bio I sent you.

Pass on my thanks to the Hall of Fame committee. I thought everyone did a really good job and it was very enjoyable evening.

Your buddy,  
Mike Keys

est member and it's a nice way for an old football player to close out 17 years playing the game. Thanks again.

Respectfully,  
Joe Garrity

POA -

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony was First Class. You did a great job. I was proud to be part of it.

Thank you,  
Ken Sandstrom  
Retired Solo

Dear Gary -

Thank you and the committee for putting together an evening my family and I enjoyed very much. Being elected to the SFPOA Sports Hall of Fame is an honor I'll never forget. It was great to see so many old friends and people I have played with and against for so many years. Playing sports during my career with the SFPD was a very meaningful experience for me. I made many friendships I still hold dear. I only hope the tradition you started can continue for many years.

Your Friend,  
Phil Dito

Dear SFPOA -

I want to thank you for selecting me as one of the original inductees into the SFPOA Sports Hall of Fame that was celebrated on November 11th.

I was very honored as the young-

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- Classified ads are text only. Photographs, clip-art, or graphics are not permitted.
- Classified ads must be for the sale, purchase, or trade of tangible items. The exception is real estate or vacation rentals owned by the member submitting the ad.
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Old fountain pens, thimbles, costume & fine jewelry. Contact Pete Buckley (Retired) (650) 355-9507 11/05

Word Search

By Officer Michelangelo Apodaca  
Taraval Station

Enjoy this relaxing and fun-to-solve puzzle! If you've never solved a puzzle like these before, it's a good idea to read this before you begin.

Each puzzle has a grid of letters that conceals words reading in different

directions – forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally – but always in a straight line. The words, abbreviations, or phrases one must find and circle are listed below the grid in capital letters. That's all you need to know before you sharpen your pencil and begin your search!

- ACADEMY  
ARMED  
BDU'S  
CITIZENRY  
COMMAND  
COMPENSATION  
EQUIPMENT  
GANG
- INVESTIGATION  
MEDIA  
MORALE  
NEW YEAR  
PARTNER  
PAY  
PENSION  
PROMOTIONAL
- PROTECTING  
POLICE  
PROMOTIONAL  
RETIRED  
SCHEDULE  
TRANSFER  
VOLUNTEER  
WORK

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
Feb. 2006	Jan. 23, 2006	May 2006	April 19, 2006
March 2006	Feb. 17, 2006	June 2006	May 22, 2006
April 2006	March 22, 2006	July 2006	June 19, 2006

A	L	C	I	R	E	F	S	N	A	R	T	D	G	E	X
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# Close Encounters

By Steve Johnson,  
SFPOA

I think we've all heard just about enough of the video incident so maybe we can move on to other items of interest that actually have a severe impact on the quality of life in San Francisco . . . maybe we can even talk about crime for a change.

How about the time, just recently, when over 2,000 demonstrators marched from City Hall down Market Street to protest in front of the Chronicle Building where police officers were stationed to protect the first amendment rights of those who wished to participate in the march . . . and just how were the officers treated? Well, **Officer Gary Constantine**, who was assigned to the event, was the recipient of a Molotov cocktail thrown in his direction. The incendiary device exploded right over Gary, showering him with the lit fuel which then burned through his shirt. Gary rides a bike so his helmet did not have the full facial protection – but this was a “peaceful” demonstration, right?

And the coward who threw the device had another one in the backpack he was toting along with 3 more ‘cocktails’ ready to go stashed away at his home in El Cerrito. Why can't these people just save themselves the cost of a BART ticket and stay home and trash their own cities?

And then we have veteran burglary suspect who just can't resist those night-time raids breaking into the beautiful mansions located on Russian Hill, only this time he made a serious mistake. Officers were called right after his latest break-in. But it wasn't the starter jacket and black jeans description given to Dispatch by the victim that tipped off **Officer Lynn Masetti**, **Officer Dave Frias**, **Officer Amy Bartholomew**, and **Officer Randall Soohoo** who responded to the area – it was the extremely bad-fitting blonde wig that was tilted a little too far to the left as the starter-jacketed suspect who was wearing black jeans tried to bicycle his way to safety. (That would have been great to get on camera . . . sorry. Not to go there.)

And since when did machetes become the popular new weapon of choice? **Officer Ray Chu** and **Officer Rich Trujillo** had to respond to the Farmer's Market at Alemany Boulevard where a person was allegedly threatening others with the extremely dangerous weapon. The suspect had already left in his vehicle which **Sgt. Martha Juarez** located a few blocks away. She managed to take this subject into custody with the help of **Officer Shawn Phillips**, **Officer Carmen Barroeta**, and **Officer Maris Goldsborough**.

And it was only 3 hours later when **Officer Ocean Embody** and **Officer Herb Najarro** responded to a report of a suspicious individual sitting in a car. The suspect had a search condition because of his prior criminal conduct which can be useful in certain criminal investigations but certainly wasn't necessary this time as the crossbow (I

guess that's the next ‘trend’ weapon), the fully-loaded gun, and the machete were all within easy reach of the person of interest . . . the things that weren't within easy reach were just as illegal; such as the huge cache of meth, a complete set of throwing knives (do they really sell this stuff on the Shopping Network?), and the other loaded gun in the trunk which turned out to be stolen. The suspect, an ex-felon (why do we even use “ex” anymore . . . talk about redundant . . . it is, unfortunately, a lifestyle for some) was immediately relocated from the neighborhood.

The call from the McDonald's Restaurant on Stanyan described an individual who was armed with a gun and wearing, among other things, a “squirrel” hat with a tail. **Sergeant Wally Gin**, **Officer John Conefrey**, **Officer Dave Goff** and **Officer Louis Clark** responded, located the suspect who was now sitting at a booth trying to look like there was nothing wrong. But there was. For one thing, you had a group of employees who were petrified because they saw the gun and thought that the suspect was going to rob them. And you also had a situation that required the utmost professionalism. The officers calmly approached the suspect and asked him to show his hands. The individual would not cooperate so it took quick action to make sure the weapon was inaccessible. The former customer was found to have a lengthy narcotic arrest record and the gun was loaded and ready to go. (And, yes, the hot-prowl burglary suspect, previously mentioned with the ill-fitting wig, could have easily sported a similar cap with tail and it would have made for an even better video . . .)

The 34-year old homeless troublemaker who weighed in at 5'5", 190 lbs and who thought he ‘owned’ the Taraval and Richmond Districts is now in jail, again. The suspect beat a 69-year old Sunset District resident who lived on 25th Avenue by slamming his head into a car numerous times and then kicking him violently when he was down. This brutal and senseless crime was investigated by **Officer Barbara Dullea**, Taraval Station. Barbara notified **Officer Bobby Cheung** at Richmond Station and Bobby had a suspect in mind. **Officer Dullea**, along with **Sgt. Bob Bohanan**, then conducted an investigation which resulted in the positive identification of the man wanted for the vicious assault. The suspect was located by **Officer Eddie Wu** and **Officer Ed Chow** and taken into custody hopefully, for some overdue time in prison. The suspect has a previous attempted murder arrest and, when taken into custody, he was the main suspect in a theft and assault perpetrated on Clement Street.

**Officer Lori Dutra** was working undercover in the Mission when she noticed a group of burglary suspects who had been ravaging her district for some time. The suspects would

split up with two casing the home they were about to burglarize while two others would serve as look-outs. They had already struck but Lori had plenty of help on the way. **Sgt. Marta McDowell**, **Officer Carolyn Gassen**, **Officer Rachel Murphy**, **Officer Lisa Frazer**, and **Officer Nancy Guillory** showed up and corralled the suspects so that there was no need for a chase, just a simple escort to jail.

The neighbors saw the young man breaking into a car and called. **Officer Harry Soulette** arrived and asked the individual who was working under the steering column to step from the vehicle while at the same time patiently listening to his detainee's explanation. The young man was extremely polite and told Harry that, “I know this looks bad but the lady across the street who owns the vehicle just asked me to help her jump start it.” **Officer Soulette** didn't want to embarrass his charge by asking why the ignition-punching device was sitting on the front seat nor why the registered owner information came back to someone other than “the lady across the street” . . . Instead, Harry intuitively called for a back-up because he knew the suspect who was now sweating profusely and extremely nervous was an excellent candidate to resist. And he did. The suspect broke from **Officer Soulette's** grasp and ran. But Harry is in excellent shape and barely broke stride as he called the three-block footchase for responding units one of which was **Officer Eugene Kalinin** and his canine, **Rocky**. **Rocky** is a no-nonsense partner who soon had the entire case wrapped up.

It was at 4:00 a.m. when **Officer David Wakayama** responded to a suspicious call on Ellis Street where neighbors reported hearing sounds like a woman screaming for help coming from a home nearby. **Officer Wakayama** was joined by **Officer Marcus Richardson** and **Officer James Reyes** as they approached the front door of the residence. The man who answered was nervous and trying to avoid any contact with the officers. It was during this brief conversation at the doorstep that **Officer Wakayama** noticed a trail of what appeared to be blood scattered across the wall and the floor leading to a back bedroom. The officers entered and found a woman in the back room who had been severely beaten about the head, was unconscious and bleeding profusely. The woman was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. The reason the man who originally answered the door was so nervous at first was not just because of the possibility that his beating victim

would be discovered but he was more concerned the officers might find the fully-loaded, 9mm semi-automatic he had hidden in a nearby drawer. The ‘doorman’ had previous convictions for pimping, pandering, along with sexual assault on a minor.

The vehicle had been circling the neighborhood for several minutes as though looking for an intended target. It wouldn't surprise **Officer Chad Campos** and **Officer Dan Silver** as they were warned by both official and, usually just as reliable, unofficial contacts that there was going to be a retaliatory shooting for a homicide that occurred just days prior in the same area of Sunnysdale where Chad and Dan patrol. The officers conducted a traffic stop for a registration violation which led to a further investigation which led to the recovery of a sawed-off, pump shotgun, a double-barrel, sawed-off shotgun, and a third shotgun which was also modified for ‘street duty’. The two occupants were to be the subject of a further investigation.

Over 40 rounds were fired between two groups trying to kill each other out by Blythdale and Hahn and **Officer Michael Howard** responded along with **Officer Craig Dong** and **Officer Kirk Yin**. The officers located two subjects who suddenly wanted to be somewhere else but had nowhere to hide their assault rifle. The officers removed the weapon from their possession, very carefully, and, with the help of **Lt. John Murphy**, Gang Task Force, located another gun used in the firefight nearby.

O.k., so about the video – it's a personnel matter that is under investigation and will be dealt with on an appropriate discipline level as determined by the Chief of Police – period. But there's also a whole lot of great police work going on every day that needs to be acknowledged and **Officer Andrew Cohen**, to his credit, did a pretty damn good job of capturing what police officers do when he filmed the *Hearts of the City* series. The original segment, honoring the officers of the Tenderloin Task Force and, in particular, **Sgt. Kenny Sugrue**, was extremely well done.

So we need to put this matter involving the video in perspective. It was a question of judgment and it will be dealt with in the appropriate forum. It was not, with all due respect, the darkest day we'll ever face – we've already been there – just ask **Renata** or ask **Isabella**, when she grows up – the ‘darkest day’ was the day we lost **Isaac**.

## News from the DA's Office

### Man Found Guilty of Selling Cocaine Base to Undercover Officer

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced that a jury convicted Eugene Coates, age 40, #2232166, of selling cocaine base to an undercover officer.

The jury, after deliberating 15 minutes, found that the defendant violated one count of 11352 of the Health and Safety Code. The allegation that the defendant had previously been convicted of the same crime was also found true. The guilty verdict followed a two-day jury trial before Superior Court Judge Charles Haines.

The defendant, of San Francisco,

was arrested on August 27, 2005, around 9:30 p.m. on O'Farrell and Hyde Streets.

The maximum statutory penalty for violating 11352 of the Health and Safety Code is five years, plus three years for a similar prior conviction. The sentencing of the defendant is scheduled for January 12 before Judge Haines in Dept. 19.

The conviction is the result of an investigation by SFPD narcotics officers. **Heather Trevisan** is the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted the case.