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www.sfpoa.org

President's Message

A Hard Look at the DROP Program

By Gary Delagnes,
SFPOA President

The San Francisco Police Officer's Association is considering the concept of a DROP program for voter approval in November of 2006. Before we make any decisions, it is incumbent upon the membership to voice their opinions, both pro and con.

Officer Smith enters the police department in 1977 at the age of 25. He then works 30 years and is eligible to retire at a full 90% pension at the age of 55 in 2007.

Let us assume that officer Smith retires with a base pay of \$100,000, or a full pension of \$90,000 per year for the rest of his life.

Under the DROP program, Officer Smith retires in 2007 but then agrees

lishes an agreed upon interest rate.

After 3 years officer Smith retires again at the age of 58 with an additional \$270,000 plus interest in a 401(k) account.

DROPs have met with varying degrees of success. The success of any DROP depends upon how it is structured, and what safeguards are built in to the provisions to protect both the municipal or county employers and the civil service employees.

Many of you have read the horror stories about the failed DROP programs in San Diego and Houston. These programs failed because the proper safeguards were not put in place. The main culprit in those failed systems has been the DROP mandated and guaranteed interest rates that could not be met by the respective cities.

The debate about the solvency and success of DROPs is robust. There are many factors that can adversely effect a DROP, as well as a few that can validate and clearly prove their benefits. The pros and cons are as follows:

PROS:

The city is able to preserve the invaluable expertise of many senior officers who might otherwise retire. Additionally, there is no immediate



President Gary Delagnes

rush to hire, train, and equip qualified replacement personnel.

The DROP officers are no longer in the retirement system but continue to pay the 7.5% retirement contribution. This is a double savings to the city because they are no longer required to make their contribution for the employee (about 6%) but also continue to receive the 7.5% contribution from the employee. A savings to the city of 13.5% right off the top while not having to incur the retirement costs of a new employee.

The plan helps to backfill the critical shortage of officers that now exists in the bureau and FOB.

Creates an additional opportunity

see DROP Program, page 6

"Many of you have read the horror stories about the failed DROP programs in San Diego and Houston. These programs failed because the proper safeguards were not put in place."

First of all, for those that have little or no knowledge of the program, DROP stands for Deferred Retirement Option Program. It has been implemented throughout the country as a way to retain retirement-eligible employees in a city or state organization for a defined period of time.

In a nutshell, this is how a DROP program would work:

to work an additional number of years (let's say 3 years for our purpose).

Officer Smith then works three additional years receiving his salary, benefits, and raises during that time, but is no longer part of the retirement system. When officer Smith retires again three years later the \$90,000 pension that he received has accrued in a separate 401(k) account that estab-

Vice President's Message

Police Culture: See it as it Is, Not as it's Spun

By Kevin Martin,
SFPOA Vice President

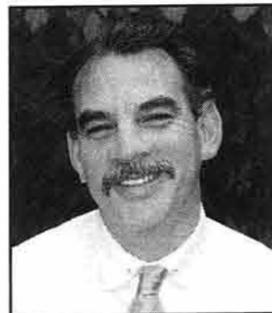
There has been a cry from a certain quarter in this city, from a certain individual who seems hell bent on the idea of changing the "police culture" in San Francisco. I can only smile wryly to myself as I contemplate if the call for the change is based on youthful exuberance, political naiveté, or just the need to be heard and seen as a guy who is tough on cops. As I ponder these thoughts and questions, others come to mind. Specifically, just what is the "police culture" and how can someone want to change something without the benefit or knowledge of that particular subject?

While working on this article, I asked several individuals, "Just what is the police culture?" To a person, the answer was thoughtful and introspective. As I did before asking the question, I walked away from their answers and insights with the same thought.

The police culture is a living,

breathing, ever evolving concept. The police culture is defined, identified and personified by those who are directly affected and involved in the police world. The perception of police culture certainly varies from officer to officer based on their experiences on the job, but also perhaps by some preconceived notions he or she had prior to entering the profession.

Some of the ideas I've had about what the "police culture" is have certainly changed over the twenty-four years I have been on the job, while others have not. One of the primary ideas that hasn't changed is the affin-



Vice President
Kevin Martin

see Police Culture, page 6

POA Condolences for Two Bay Area Officers

By President Gary Delagnes
San Francisco Police Officers Association

The San Francisco Police Officers Association extends sympathy and condolences to the families, friends, and coworkers of two Bay Area officers who died in the line of duty. Both of these fine men will be sorely missed by both their immediate and their law enforcement families. No greater sacrifice can be made for the people of California than to have supported and loved a police officer who died serving his or her fellow Californians.

Lieutenant Michael Walker, 47, California Highway Patrol

Lieutenant Walker was killed December 31, 2005 while directing traffic at a New Year's Eve traffic collision in the storm-beaten Santa Cruz Mountains. He died from injuries sustained after being impacted by a skidding vehicle that had lost control on the flooded roadway.

Lieutenant Walker was a native San Franciscan and a graduate of Rior-dan High School. He was a 24-year veteran of the CHP. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Officer Richard May, 38, East Palo Alto Police Department

Officer May was viciously gunned down by a reputed gangster on parole on January 7, 2006 while investigating a disturbance call. The suspect was taken into custody following a massive manhunt in the area. Following the arrest, it was evident that Officer May had returned gunfire and injured the suspect. A Police Cadet, who was riding with Officer May at the time of the murder, and who witnessed the tragedy, was not harmed.

Officer May had served 18 months with the East Palo Alto PD after serving 14 years with the Lompoc Police Department. He was a highly regarded and decorated officer. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, and one stepdaughter.

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	"The Cafe" @ Thunder Valley Casino, 1200 Athens Ave, Lincoln, Calif.	Wed February 22, 2006 11:00 AM	Rene LaPrevotte rlaprevotte@comcast.net
Yulanda "Yo" Williams 50th Birthday Party/New Orleans PD Charity Fundraiser	Café Cocomo, 650 Indiana St, SF	Fri., February 10, 2006, 6:30 PM	Rcandia_66@msn.com
Tennis Tournament, Guns And Hoses	San Francisco Tennis Club	Saturday, April 29th, 2006 4:00 PM	Robin Matthews, 415-553-9261
5th Annual Charity Tennis Tournament	645 - 5th Street	May 4 and 5, 2006	Val Kirwan 415-310-8353
2006 California Police Officer's Memorial	Sacramento		

P.O.A. to Collect Used Eyeglasses for Recycling

By Kevin Martin
POA Vice President

The P.O.A will be a drop off site for used eyeglasses in a partnership with The Castro Lion Club Inc. Lion's Club International has been collecting used eyeglasses and hearing aids for re-use in their Sight and Hearing Centers throughout the world. These Sight and Hearing Centers are mostly located in Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. Used eyeglasses are cleaned and sorted at The Lion's Collection Center in Vallejo and shipped to the Sight Centers.

Lion's International chartered the

Castro Lions Club, Inc. in 1985 and the club serves the Castro/Mission/Noe Valley Area. The late Officer Ray Benson, who was a P.O.A. member, was one of the charter members of this Lions Club. The Castro Lions Club has raised and donated over \$500,000 to various charities over the last 20 years. The club meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Octavia Lounge, 1772 Market Street, in San Francisco at 7 pm. Guests are welcome to attend. RSVP to (415) 90LIONS.

Please direct any questions regarding the Lions Club or this worthy donation program to Officer David Gin, Medical Liaison Unit.

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

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- 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 January 30, 2006.

Ray Shine,
Editor and Circulation Manager

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Co. F	Patrick Burke, Mike Siebert	RETIRED	Ray Allen

ASSOCIATION OFFICE: (415) 861-5060

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The *POA Journal* is the official publication of the San Francisco Police Officers Association. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SFPOA or the San Francisco Police Department.

Members or readers submitting letters or articles to the editor are requested to observe these simple rules:

- Address letters to the Editor's Mail Box, 800 Bryant St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.
- Letters must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address. The name, but not the street address, will be published with the letter.
- Unsigned letters and/or articles will not be used.
- Writers are assured freedom of expression within necessary limits of space and good taste.
- The editor reserves the right to add editor's notes to any article submitted, if necessary.
- Articles should be typed, double-spaced, or submitted on disk in Microsoft Word.

ADVERTISING: Contact Ray Shine, Advertising Director (415) 861-5060

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POA Board of Directors Meeting

January 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order by POA President Gary Delagnes at 1300 hours. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call of the Board of Directors.

The first presentation to the Board of Directors was made by Matt Johannson, Director of the "Glow-

worms" Educational Foundation. After he had done extensive research on the "Glowworms" and discovered that they are the "real deal".

The next business before the Board of Directors dealt with the Governors race. President Delagnes spoke in general terms about the pros and cons of both State Controller Steve Westly and Treasurer Phil Angelides. President Delagnes said that this is a very difficult decision for the Board of Directors, since both men have a broad base of support, in addition to both being pro-labor. After President Delagnes' comments, a brief discussion among the Board followed. After

November ballot? President Delagnes went on to say that there are numerous questions that have to be answered by Chief Heather Fong regarding this issue, but he hopes to have more answers after the January 20th meeting with the DROP Committee. It is also unclear at this time as to whether the firefighters will join as on the ballot.

President Delagnes spoke extensively about the Chief's intention of consolidating the rank of sergeant and inspector. Pres. Delagnes spoke about his recent meeting with the Chief, in which the Chief talked about her desire not to give another inspectors test. Pres. Delagnes also spoke about his meeting with Bruce Topp, representative from City Hall, regarding their desire to phase-out the inspectors rank, and consolidate both the Sergeants and Inspectors rank.

President Delagnes stated that by having only one test, which would be a Sergeants test, the candidate would only have to study and prepare one time, rather than twice, as they currently have to do, if he/she wants to hold both ranks. Additionally, numerous candidates would come off that one list, since both the street supervisor and the bureau inspector position would have to be filled.

As always, many questions have to be answered about the integration of the current single-rank Sergeants and single-rank Inspectors. Once the Executive Board, Officers For Justice, Latin Peace Officers Association, Asian Peace Officers Association and Gay Pride Alliance have an opportunity to meet with Chief Fong and exchange ideas, we will be in a better position to answer all the questions that the membership may have regarding this issue.

President Delagnes told the Board that he believes that Chief Fong will promote Inspectors in the very near



future, but no definitive date was given. It is expected that at least 25 inspectors will be promoted, but again, no firm number.

Under the category of "New Business", Treasurer Martin Halloran, gave a very in depth presentation to the Board about our budget for 2006, in addition to a financial report of how we fared in 2005. According to Treasurer Halloran, the POA came in \$300,000 under budget in 2005. The 2006 budget, which is also published, was passed with a voice vote, with no objections.

Treasurer Halloran then spoke about the POA Executive Board setting-up a 401(K) and 403(C) program for the five full-time POA employees. Board member Dean Sorgie (Co. G) made motion that this proposal is passed. Board member John Scully (Co. I) seconded the motion.

Vice-President Kevin Martin informed the Board that the new representative from the Inspectors Bureau will be elected next month. The ballots will be sent out within the couple of weeks.

Vice-President Kevin Martin made the motion that the POA contribute \$10,000.00 to the "Glowworm Foundation". The motion was seconded by Board member Tim Flaherty (Co. E).

Meeting was adjourned at 1500 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Matthew Breen,
Sgt.-At-Arms



worms" Educational Foundation. The "Glowworm 95 Foundation, which was established in 2004, was created as a non-profit organization to address some of the educational shortcomings of some of the City's most disadvantaged children. The program also incorporates student support services and parent and community involvement into their program.

The "Glowworm" Foundation currently provides a Physical education program at Leonard Flynn Elementary School in the Mission District; a Leadership program at Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in the Western Addition; and a professionally evaluated counseling program at Gloria R. Davis School in the Bayview.

After Mr. Johannson made his informative presentation, Captain Keith Sanford, Taraval Station, spoke to the Board about his positive relationship with the Mr. Johannson and the "Glowworm" Foundation. Captain Sanford explained why the Foundation has been so successful, and gave specific examples of Mr. Johannson's commitment to providing supplemental educational programs to low-income children in the in-city. One of the concerns raised by a Board member dealt with the possibility of San Francisco Unified School District having access to money raised by the Foundation. Mr. Johannson address that concern by stating that since "Glowworms" was a non-profit Foundation, SFUSD would have absolutely no control over their funds. Vice President Kevin Martin also told the Board of Directors that if we had decided to make a contribution to "Glowworms", the POA's name would be associated with a very reputable organization. After a few more questions, Mr. Johannson left the meeting. President Delagnes explained to the Board that

all comments were heard, President Delagnes said that the legislative Committee would make the decision on February 1, 2006.

President Delagnes addressed the Board regarding the strong possibility of the POA putting the DROP Plan (Deferred retirement option plan) on the November ballot

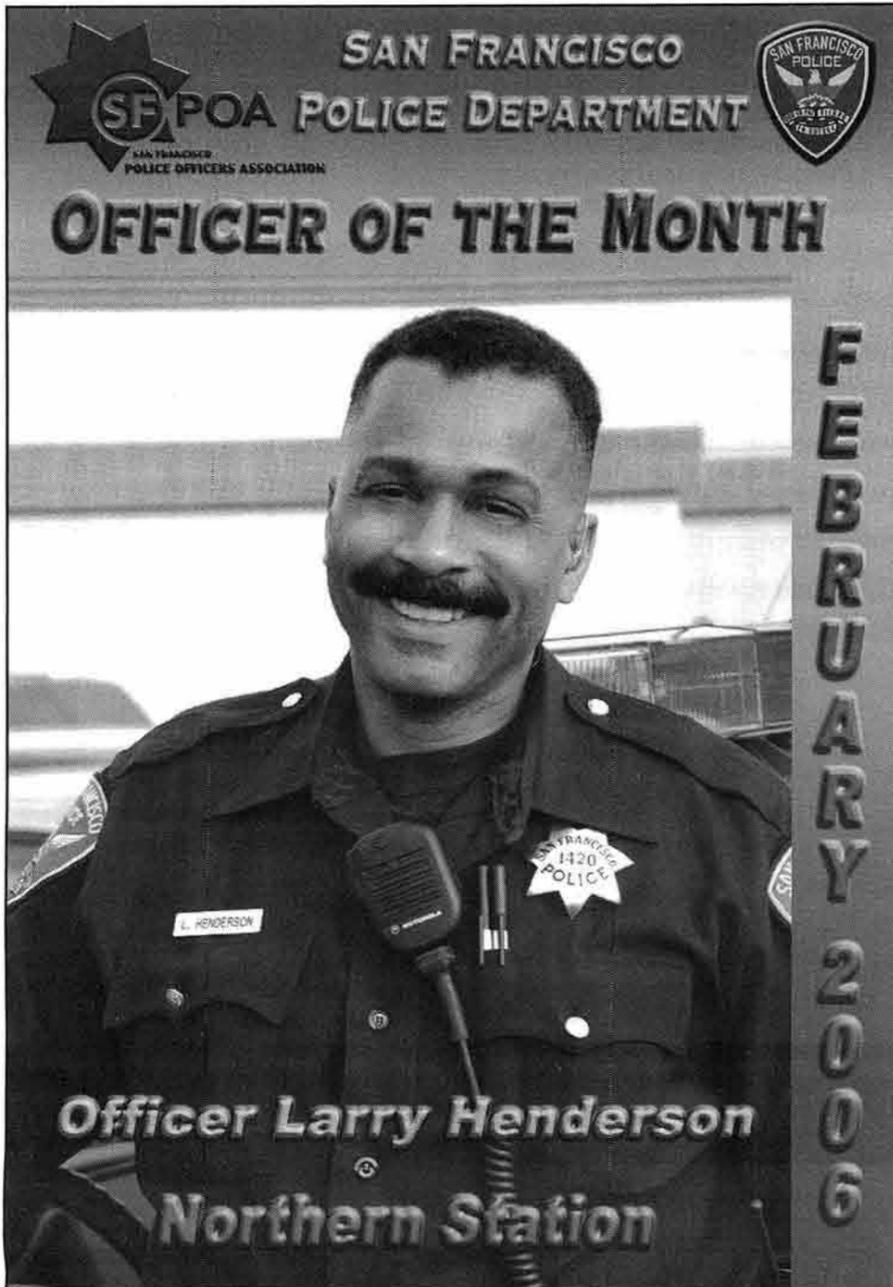
The DROP Plan would allow an officer, Sgt., Lt. or Capt. to retire anytime after he/she had both reached 50 years of age, and 25 years of service, but continue to work for a maximum of three additional years. The money that an officer collects as part of their retirement would go into an interest-bearing 401(K) account. The officer would then continue to collect his/her regular paycheck, for a maximum of three years. It is yet to be decided how many years a Sgt., Lt. or Capt. would be allowed to work when they became part of the DROP Plan. The primary advantage of this plan is that the Department would have the services of the officers for an additional three years beyond when the officer would have normally retired. The economic advantages to the officers who choose to participate in the DROP Plan are self-evident.

Officers who are assigned to the Solo, Honda and Mounted Units would be forced to leave those units and return to patrol duties if they decided to participate in the DROP Plan. One Board member brought-up the concern that if Sgts., Lts., and Capts. are allowed to participate in the DROP Plan, wouldn't this negatively impact officers who want to promote to a higher rank. President Delagnes agreed that this is one negative aspect of the DROP Plan, but since only 30% of our members actually promote, is it fair to the remaining 70% that we not proceed with our plans to put this on the

Board of Directors Meeting Roll Call Wednesday, January 18, 2006

President	Gary Delagnes	P	Co. G	Dean Sorgie	P
Vice President	Kevin Martin	P		Dominic Yin	E
Secretary	Tony Montoya	E	Co. H	Jennifer Marino	P
Treasurer	Marty Halloran	P		Mike Walsh	P
Sergeant-At-Arms			Co. I	John Scully	P
	Chris Breen	P		Jody Kato	P
Editor	Ray Shine	P	Co. K	Don Moorehouse	P
Co. A	Ed Browne	P		Dean Taylor	P
	George Rosko	P	Hdqtr.	Dennis Callaghan	P
Co. B	Mike Nevin	E		Neville Gittens	E
	Bill Roualdes	E	Narcotics	Larry Mack	P
Co. C	Mike Moran	P		Lynne Atkinson	E
	Derrick Jackson	E	Tactical	Mark Madsen	E
Co. D	James H. Miller	P		Jason Sawyer	P
	Matt Rodgers	P	Invest.	Jim Balovich	E
Co. E	Tim Flaherty	P		Pierre Martinez	P
	John Van Koll	E	TTF	Gavin McEachern	P
Co. F	Mike Siebert	E		Theresa San Giacomo	P
	Patrick Burke	P	Airport	Robert Belt	P
				Bob Chapman	P
			Retired	Ray Allen	P

Patrol Officer of the Month



COLLAGE 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 Larry Henderson of Northern Station for being chosen as the February 2006 Officer of the Month. As with all such honorees, the selection of Larry 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.

News from the DA's Office

Man Convicted of Resisting Arrest, Assault on Officer

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced that Elijah Cooper, age 28, was convicted of felony resisting arrest and misdemeanor assault on an officer.

The defendant was arrested on March 10, 2005, around 7:40 p.m., after officers on patrol in the Bayview saw what they believed to be a narcotics transaction. The defendant resisted an officer's attempt to detain him by flipping her over his back. The officer sustained some soreness and bruising.

After deliberating a day, the jury

convicted the defendant of 69 PC and 241(b) PC. The guilty verdict followed a week-long jury trial before Superior Court Judge Jerome T. Benson.

The maximum statutory penalty for felony resisting arrest is three years in state prison. Sentencing is scheduled for February 10, 2006, before Judge Benson in Department 21.

The conviction is the result of an investigation by San Francisco police officers from the Bayview Station. Sharon Reardon is the Assistant District Attorney who prosecuted the case.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' AID ASSOCIATION

January 10, 2006

The regular meeting of the Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association of the San Francisco Police was called to order by President Fred Pardella at 2:10 PM in the Conference Room of Ingleside Station.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by President Fred Pardella.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: President Fred Pardella, Vice President Mike Kemmitt, Treasurer Jim Sturken and Secretary Mark Hurley. Trustees Joe Garrity, Dave Fontana, John Centurioni and Rene LaPrevotte. Excused Matt Gardner.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING: Motion by LaPrevotte, seconded by Sturken that the minutes be approved as published. Motion carried.

BILLS: Treasurer Sturken presented the usual bills. Motion by Centurioni, seconded by Garrity that the Bills be approved as published. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Donation made in the sum of \$100 from David and Gretchen Guise for the assistance rendered them from members of Northern Station on their recent visit to San Francisco. Ted and Phyllis Wright \$50 donation made in memory of Tim Casey.

WE HAD TWO DEATHS THIS PAST MONTH.

JAMES J. MAGUIRE, 88 years. Jim was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Mission. He attended Balboa High School, then enlisted in the Navy during WW II. After his return to civilian life, he was employed as a machinist for a brief time before entering the Police Academy in 1945. His first assignment was Fixed Post traffic in the downtown area. Two years later, he went to the three-wheelers. He remained at traffic for his entire career and was working Traffic Administration when he retired in 1976 with a service pension. While on the three wheelers, Jim was awarded several Captain's Comp's for outstanding Police Work. The three-wheelers were a very mobile detail that often would be at a crime scene before the district station radio car. In his retirement, Jim worked for the National Auto Theft Bureau for about 10 years.

K. LA MOYNE BAXTER, 71 years. Kay was born and raised in Fairview, Idaho. He served his country as a member of the Navy. Upon his discharge on the West Coast, he settled in San Francisco and was employed as an iron worker. He also worked for Bode Cement Company. He entered the Police Academy in 1965. His first assignment was Taraval Station, then Northern for a couple of years before going to Potrero. A year later he was assigned to Ingleside Station, which

was his home until he retired in 1993. Kay was a smooth operator and was known by everyone in the Excelsior as a cop that could give you a hand if you needed it. He was awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor for apprehending three armed robbery suspects who just robbed the Bank of America in Glen Park.

SUSPENSIONS: Pursuant to Section 4 of Article III of the Constitution, (Non-payment of dues for one year) Catherine Payne, Steven Blair, David Burns, Earl Gonsolin, George Toy, and Susan Moneyhun.

All these people have been contacted and still did not pay their dues. President Pardella ordered them stricken from the rolls. Pursuant to Article III, Section 3 of the by-laws, (Did not complete probationary period) Stephen Chan. Pursuant to Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution, (non-payment of dues for six months) Jose Robles, Reynaldo Vargas, and Sean McGuire. President Pardella ordered them suspended.

OLD BUSINESS: The new officers were sworn in for the coming year. Mike Kemmitt President, Rene LaPrevotte Vice President. Treasurer Jim Sturken. Trustees Joe Garrity, John Centurioni and Fred Pardella.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES: Our new investment team from Well Fargo Bank made a very good presentation of the activity of our account. Shane Hiller, Jerome Paolini and Pam Royer gave out booklets on our account at filled us in how they are doing in the first couple of Months. They are looking a large cap stocks to start a steady climb. They have taken us out of corporate bonds in a gradual manner. They look for International Stocks to made substantial gains this coming year. Businesses that have been on the sidelines with their investments are getting back in the Market. They feel that oil prices will remain high but level out. China has a tremendous need for oil to keep their economy going. We currently are invested in 280 individual stocks on a daily basis.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Remember, the dues increase to \$72 per year. Death Benefit is \$17,000. Keep your beneficiary information and address changes current with our Association. Give me a call at 415.681.3660 for any questions or changes.

ADJOURNMENT: President Fred Pardella had a moment of silence for our departed members and the recent passing of a CHP Lt. And Palo Alto Police Officer. He set the next meeting for Tuesday February 14, 2006 at 2 PM in the Conference room of Ingleside Station. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Fraternally,
Mark Hurley,
Secretary

"Tip-A-Cop"

to benefit Northern California Special Olympics

Scoma's Restaurant Fisherman's Wharf

reservations: 415-771-4383

Thursday, February 16th, 2006 1100-2100

Deborah Neil 415-401-4780

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT



By Al Casciato

...Birth:

The Winters Family welcomes **Isabella Rose Winters**, 7 lbs 9 oz, 20 inches long born 01/06/2006 at 7:19 pm at the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek. This is the second daughter for **James and Ana Winters**, Special Investigations Division, and the third granddaughter for retired Captain **Greg Winters**. Mom, baby, big sister, and dad are all doing great.

Josh and Silvia Olson (Bayview Station) proudly announce the birth of their first child **Jack Stewart Olson**, 8lbs, 7ozs, 21 1/2 inches, born on December 19, 2005, 0824 hours at California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco.

Rob Ziegler (Vice Crimes) and wife **Nicole** welcomed **Ava Michelle** into the family on December 13, 2005. Ava weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Congratulations to all we wish you the very best...

...1906 Earthquake Anniversary:

The San Francisco Fire Department's Historical Society will be sponsoring a remembrance of the 1906 earthquake and fire at Pier 48 on April 15, 16 & 17, 9 Am - 6 pm. If you have any memorabilia from that era and would like to display it please contact Firefighter **Paul Barry** at 415-706-7994 or Police Inspector **Liane Corrales** at 415-558-5529. On April 18 memorial services will start at 5 am at Lotta's Fountain 3rd and Market, and will followed by a variety of breakfast and memorial events...Paul is also looking for volunteers to help make the sets in the pier. So if you are handy with a hammer, saw and brush, feel free to volunteer...

...Special Olympics:

The Annual SF Giants fund raiser for the Special Olympics will be held Wednesday, June 28, at SBC Stadium. Tickets went on sale as of January 21st. **Bob Guinan** the Department's coordinator for the Special Olympics effort, asks that you mark your calendar now and requests that you purchase the tickets as soon as possible. Also this year a portion of the funds will go to the accounts which have been established for the local Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty...

...Eric Batchelder Update:

Mission Station's **Eric Batchelder** continues to recover from a serious on-duty motorcycle accident that he suffered on November 27. To help their fellow officer recoup, the Los Carnales/La Familia Motorcycle Club

— composed of Bay Area police officers — visited Eric last week and presented to him a check in the amount of several hundred dollars. The members collected the funds during a ride event to aid several officers who are on the mend.

Northern Station Officer **Lawrence Henderson** is a proud member of both the Los Carnales and the SFPD. He was among those who paid the visit to Eric. Nice work to the Los Carnales MC, and best wishes to Eric.

...The Coaches:

Retired Solo Sgt. **Tom O'Connell** is the head coach of the St. Ignatius Crew Team. Retired Mounted Office **Dennis McClellan** is coaching the Riordan Golf Team. The Sacred Heart-Cathedral frosh football team is being coached by Sgt. **Frank Lee**, Richmond Station. Are there any more coaches out there? Let us know we'd like to acknowledge them...

...Challenge:

How do we keep Officers on the street to prevent crime? That is the question that is being asked over and over at the various community meetings being held throughout the Bay Area. How should that question be answered? Think about all the reasons why an officer does not spend his or her entire shift on patrol. Demonstrations, details, arrests, reports, court, range, training, OCC interviews and administrative tasks are just the beginning of the list of why officers leave their beats. Tough question to answer and even a tougher challenge for a City or County to fund the necessary staffing level that will give comfort to the community members and substantially reduce crime...

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

TRAFFIC TIPS

By John Nestor, OIC
STOP Program, Traffic Company

Dealer Plates: Part II

In the last *Traffic Tips* I discussed how dealer plates are to be displayed, and the documentation that accompanies them. This brings up the question of who can use dealer plates, and when. To answer this we have to look to the California Code of Regulations Title 13, Division 1., Chapter 1. Article 3.3. "Special Plates". Below are those individuals who may operate a vehicle with dealer plates

1. The owner, general partner, manager, director, namely the party who is actively engaged in the management and control of the business may operate for any purpose a vehicle that the dealer owns or lawfully possesses without registering the vehicle. Licensed employees, salespersons (their license looks resembles a C.D.L.) also fit into this category. This will also apply to anyone driving a vehicle when a previous mentioned party is in the vehicle. Unfortunately the DMV does not issue special identification for dealers making it difficult for an officer to determine if the driver is a dealer, manager etc. I will often ask for a business card with the driver's name and the dealership on it as verification of any claim of being the dealer. However, this alone may not prove or disprove the driver's situation and additional investigative steps such as calling the dealership may be necessary.



2. A licensed driver who resides (wife, husband, child) in the household of the party described in the paragraph above may drive a vehicle with special plates solely to pick up or drop off that individual.

3. A licensed driver who is employed by the dealership and is acting in the scope of his employment.

4. A licensed driver who is either:
 - a. Using the vehicle for a special event and has a letter from the dealer describing the vehicle, duration, location of event and who will be operating the vehicle.
 - b. A licensed driver taking the vehicle for a test drive for seven days without a salesperson present if they have a letter of authorization identifying the vehicle, duration and parties authorized to operate the vehicle.

In summation, if you stop a vehicle and the dealer plates are not being properly used, you should treat the vehicle and driver as if the dealer plates were not on the vehicle. Thus, the driver may be cited and vehicle subject to all registration requirements. If the vehicle was towed I would book the dealer plates and describe the incident in your report.

2005 Tax Information:
SFPOA Annual Dues Paid for 2005
\$ 1,201.85

Annual VA Hospital Christmas Visit

By Bob Belt
Past Commander
Police-Fire Post #456,
The American Legion

The Police-Fire Post of The American Legion had their annual visit to the Fort Miley Veteran's Hospital in San Francisco on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. The visit is always a great success and is sincerely appreciated by the permanent resident patients in the hospital.

The post gives every patient a Christmas card-- with money to buy basic necessities not provided by the hospital-- cookies, a stuffed animal, and a memento from the branch of military in which the veteran served. The visit is sponsored by the SFPOA,

the Deputy Sheriffs Association, the DA Investigators, SFPD, the California Firefighter's Foundation, and the Police and Firemen's Insurance Association.

John Scully, Jennifer Forrester (Santa's Helper), Bob Belt, Joan Quinn, Bob Quinn, Joe Long, and Pat Cadigan as Santa.



Paul Wallace, Disabled Veteran, Bob Quinn and Bob Belt.



Bob Belt, Col. Theodore Wilson-One of the few remaining original Tuskegee Airmen, and Jennifer Forrester.

Police Culture

continued from page 1

ity cops have for their fellow man, and in particular the affinity cops have for each other. This affinity cops have for each other can be difficult to describe or define to those outside the blue line but it is easily recognized and welcomed by those who are the blue line. I recently experienced both the most horrific and honorable examples of what I can best describe is the police culture.

On Friday night, January 14, 2006 at approximately 2340 hours I was off-duty and on my way home when I heard the loud wailing of police sirens reverberating throughout the Southern police district. I saw two or three black and whites along with some plain clothes units streaking down the rainy streets on their way to an emergency. As more sirens filled the air and cop cars moved about the district I called Southern station only to be informed by a veteran cop's shaking voice that "there's a cop down, bleeding profusely from the head" ... A deafening silence met with the thought of "oh no...here we go again" I quietly thanked the officer and then headed out towards S.F.G.H. where the fallen officer was to be brought. As I waited for the ambulance to deliver the officer I learned about how the officer was severely injured by some punk gang-banger who had just shot two people in the Mission and was leading the coppers on a citywide pursuit.

When entering the Southern, Officers Jordan Oryall and his partner Craig Leung attempted to stop the suspect. The suspect turned his car into a deadly projectile as he directed his car in the paths of the officers. While trying to render the vehicle and driver

I recently experienced both the most horrific and honorable examples of what I can best describe is the police culture.

useless, Officer Leung was dragged a considerable distance while the driver careened into several parked cars trying to dislodge and seriously injure Officer Leung. Just before being driven into a cement embankment, Officer Leung flung himself from the vehicle and onto the concrete sidewalk resulting in terrible injuries.

I was soon joined at S.F.G.H. by several other officers who had come to be with their brother officer and impart words of compassion and strength to him. As we waited, we were soon joined by a young man in a wheel chair who was making his way towards us. As the man drew closer I saw that the man was Officer Eric Batchelder who was in the hospital after a terrible hit and run motorcycle accident. As Eric wheeled his way towards us we spoke softly to each other, "Hey man, it's Eric. Eric's here."

We met Eric with handshakes and hugs as he told us he just had to be here with his fellow officers.

When Craig finally arrived at S.F.G.H. we greeted him with words of strength and comfort, and gave assurance that we were there for him. When Craig saw Eric and heard his words, Craig smiled and gave all a courageous thumbs up. Craig soon was pushed into M.E.H. on a gurney and disappeared into a trauma room. Later, we

were told about how Eric learned that another police officer had been seriously injured and wanted to be with him when he arrived at the hospital. We were also told of how Eric pulled wires and tubes off of himself in order to leave his room to see Craig.

A couple of hours later, after leaving the hospital and driving home, I was struck by the whole situation and my thoughts eventually led me to the inane notion that some felt the need to change the so-called "police culture" without having a clue as to what that means. It's too bad those persons could not have been witness to Eric's and Craig's actions that night. One officer who was willing to sacrifice his life in order to take down a heinous, violent criminal who had shot two people, left them for dead and received serious injuries for his efforts; and another officer who dragged himself out of his own hospital bed to be at the side of another fallen cop.

A tip of my hat to both Eric and Craig for restoring my faith in what we do, why we do it, and all those for whom we do it. Additionally, a tip of the hat to all those who day in and day out step into the arena where others fear to tread, who toil in that proud and noble thing called the police culture.

DROP Program

continued from page 1

for our members to stay working at a job they enjoy and are often dedicated to for a few extra years and further secure their financial futures after retirement.

CONS:

An implemented DROP would limit promotional opportunities for one cycle of the DROP because some Sergeants, Inspectors, Lieutenants, and Captains would elect to remain on the job for a few additional years thereby creating fewer promotional vacancies in those respective ranks.

Would require members in specialized units to leave those assignments and make themselves available for an FOB assignment.

The plan can be a "win-win" for the both the employee and the city. But, that is incumbent on certain key criteria. First, a fair and equitable interest rate must be established that protects both the city and the employee (The problem in both San Diego and Houston). Second, the most appropriate employees must participate in the program, that is those in FOB, the division that a DROP most effectively benefits. Third, it cannot significantly impact promotional opportunities. And four, specialized units should be filled with "new blood" and not hinder lateral movement into these coveted units.

We will be meeting over the next few weeks preparing the DROP program for final analysis. Your rep's will be updated every step of the way and advised of any added dimensions. Overall it appears to be an outstanding opportunity for our members, but like most things in life, it has its drawbacks. Stay tuned for further details.

Avoid the 14

San Francisco Law Enforcement's Crackdown on Intoxicated Drivers

Gratifying 23% Drop In San Francisco DUI Arrests;

Zero DUI Fatalities As Avoid The 14 Crackdown Reports Results

California Office of Traffic Safety

San Francisco's Avoid the 14 holiday police crackdown brought in 96 DUI suspects this holiday season, a drop of 23 percent from last year's total of 125. No one died in a crash attributed to an impaired driver compared with one death last year.

"This is a gratifying drop in arrests," said Captain Greg Corrales of the San Francisco Police Dept., campaign chairman. "We are very pleased with the zero in the fatalities column. We credit the news media for bringing attention to the problem," he commented.

The third annual crackdown began on Dec. 16 and ended at midnight on New Year's Day.

Avoid the 14's interagency team of 25 officers brought in 10 people with outstanding DUI warrants on Dec. 17 after having made 45 contacts. At an informational checkpoint on New Year's Eve morning, officers distrib-

uted flyers on DUI.

The crackdown, a project of all law enforcement agencies in San Francisco, ran five sobriety checkpoints starting with the Thanksgiving weekend and ending Dec. 30.

Officers from SFPD, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, US Park Police, and those covering BART, Amtrak, the San Francisco Community College District and San Francisco State University staffed the enforcement events.

They interviewed more than 2400 motorists during the checkpoints, arresting seven for DUI and towing 78 vehicles due to suspended or unlicensed drivers.

Avoid the 14 rides again over the Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends.

The California Office of Traffic Safety funds Avoid the 14, as it does the 20 other similar countywide Avoid campaigns.

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2006 California Peace Officers' Memorial

By Officer Val Kirwan,
Northern Police Station

On average, one Law Enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America every 53 hours. The first known line-of-duty death occurred in 1792, when New York Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith was shot and killed. Since then, over 17,000 officers have died while performing their duties. New York City has lost more officers than any other department with 584 deaths. The state with the highest number of police deaths is California, with 1,377. Vermont has the fewest with 18. (Source: National Law Officers Memorial Fund)

Unfortunately again for the year 2005, California leads the nation with the most officers killed in the line of duty: 18. On May 4th and 5th of this year, the California Peace Officers memorial foundation (of which I am a Director) will be honoring those fine officers and their families. The ceremonies will be held in Sacramento (see attached flyer for complete details).

This year I will be the facilitator from the Memorial Board to the Pittsburg Police Department and the family of Officer Larry Lasater. Larry's wife

Joann was seven months pregnant when Larry was murdered; Joann, along with her son Cody and family, will attend the memorial. This year we will also be honoring two officers from the past who were killed in the line of duty but were never properly memorialized. If you know of any S.F.P.D. officer who was killed in the line of duty in the past but was not honored, please contact me with the information.

If you have never attended the memorial, you should plan on doing so. I will keep you posted as to any arrangements the S.F.P.D. makes in attending the memorial.

I know that some S.F.P.D. officers are participating in the national "Police Unity Tour" (bike ride from New Jersey to Washington DC). They will be contacting you shortly. Please support them in their fundraising efforts. All the money they collect goes to the National Memorial and towards the new National Museum.

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification, please contact me at 415-310-8353 (cell) or 415-614-3400 (work).

Stay safe.

February 2006 Inspector of the Month



Inspector Matthew S. Krinsky has been a member of the San Francisco Police Department for over 23 years. Inspector Krinsky has served at the Bayview Station, Narcotics Task Force, Southern Station and Taraval Station before coming to the Bureau of Inspectors in 1994, where he has served with distinction in the Night Investigations Unit and in his current assignment in the Hit and Run Detail.

Inspector Krinsky is widely accepted in the State of California as an expert in Hazardous Materials and Traffic Investigation. His depth of knowledge and investigative abilities regarding traffic collisions make him the ultimate go to resource for the entire department. The serious accident cases assigned to him are handled with professionalism and empathy. All the investigations are extremely thorough and flawless.

Inspector Krinsky is also on the Academy Staff as the lead instructor for Traffic Collision Investigations, DUI Updates Course and the Hazardous Materials Course. His prodigious skills and sense of humor have earned him a reputation as an incredibly competent and entertaining instructor. Matt's desire to share his impressive expertise has gained him numerous awards in the world of education.

Inspector Matthew's Krinsky's work ethic and dedication to the citizens of our community have earned him my nomination for Inspector of the Month.

Convicted Cop Killer Seeks New Trial

Submitted by Pat Burke
Park Station

This convict murdered Police Officer Danny Faulkner in cold blood. Tom Hoban - Danny's partner at the time of this cowardly murder - is the Secretary for the National Emerald Society. Val Kirwan and I meet with him every year at the conference. Tom is seeking support for the Faulkner family. - Pat

By Tom Hoban
National Emerald Society

On behalf of the Police Officers of Philadelphia, along with our brothers and sisters in Law Enforcement throughout the country, we are outraged, shocked, and dismayed to learn that the Third Circuit Court of appeals would consider that convicted cop killer Mumia Abu Jamal should get a new trial.

The facts of the case that convicted the cowardly acts of Mumia Abu Jamal on the December 9, 1981 murder of Police Officer Danny Faulkner are still the same 24 years later. The facts of the case have and always have been clear, concise, and overwhelming. Consider the following:

- Police arrived within moments after the incident and found Mumia Jamal sitting on the curb, wounded, and only a short distance from the dead officer.
- Officer Faulkner's spent bullet was found in the attacker's chest.
- The attacker, Mumia Abu Jamal, was wearing a shoulder holster.
- Mumia Abu Jamal's gun was registered to him.
- The attacker's gun was found near him with five spent shells, two of which were in the body of the deceased officer.

- In addition to a spontaneous statement, in which Mumia Jamal stated he shot the officer, three (3) eyewitnesses positively identified Mumia Abu Jamal as the shooter at the scene of the murder.
- One eyewitness stated she saw the officer shot in the back by Mumia Abu Jamal.
- Another eyewitness testified he never lost sight of the defendant (Jamal), from the time he shot the officer, until police placed him in custody.
- Still another eyewitness testified he was so close to the shooting of the Police Officer, that the witness could see the officer's body jerk; "His whole body jerked when he was shot in the face."

The jury, multi-racial in it is making up, was chosen with Mumia Jamal's personal participation and found the evidence against him to be overwhelming. To that end, the jury, not the Judge, voted unanimously to convict Mumia Abu Jamal of First Degree Murder and imposed the death penalty because he executed Officer Faulkner in cold blood.

Mumia Abu Jamal has had numerous legal appeals through the court system including the Commonwealth Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and our highest court in the land, The United States Supreme Court. His convictions were upheld at every level.

This entire appeal is ridiculous. It is a smack in the face to not only the entire legal process, but to Danny Faulkner's family. How much suffering must they endure?

Enough is Enough!

Danny Faulkner is dead. He can no longer Love, Laugh or have a family - He had no appeals.

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References:

Lt. Bob Barnes ★ Cpt. Kevin Cashman
Cmdr. Mike Puccinelli ★ Sgt. Jim Spillane

ON THE SAFE SIDE.....

“Kids & Cops” Program Comes to North Beach Place

By Cindy Wandel, Executive Director

“Kids & Cops” is a program that has been implemented by San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) in other neighborhoods throughout the city over the past two years. Also known as “Cops Read to Kids,” this program helps increase children’s literacy and listening skills, educates them about crime prevention and public safety, and encourages positive relationships with the police. “Kids & Cops” addresses different safety concerns such as personal safety at home and on the street, bullying prevention, abduction prevention, emergency preparedness and community building.

The program started at North Beach Place on January 31, 2006, and runs every Tuesday for eight weeks. SAFE’s Child Safety Specialist Oona Gilles Weil, the program coordinator at North Beach Place, and police officers at Central District Police Station meet with 20 kids between the ages of 6 – 8 once per week for 2 hours in the afternoon and discuss a different topic each time. One of the police officers reads a relevant safety or culturally-appropriate story to the kids. Depending on the topic each week, there may also be another guest, either from the police department or city agency, that has expertise on the topic and can provide

further education to the children. There are also activities and crafts for the kids each week, which are intended to physically and artistically teach kids about safety, teamwork, anger management and bullying prevention. SAFE received a small grant from the San Francisco Mayor’s Community Support Fund in order to sponsor the “Kids & Cops” project.

Goals of this project include: develop trust and meaningful relationships between kids and the police; engage kids in activities with the police so they will feel more comfortable and have a better understanding about an officer’s role in the community; educate kids on how to positively affect the quality of life in their neighborhood; promote literacy; and educate kids on crime prevention and safety. Reading and engaging in team activities between the groups are beneficial. “Kids & Cops” is motivated by a recognized need to keep children safe, educate children about public safety, and provide opportunities to police officers to build positive relationships in the communities they serve. Informal surveys at the start and end of the program will allow us to gauge the children’s knowledge on crime prevention, understanding of the police, and what they liked best about the project.

SAFE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides crime prevention education and public safety services throughout San Francisco. For more information on SAFE and our services, please call (415) 553-1984, or visit our website at www.sfsafe.org.



SFPD Behavioral Science Unit

Catastrophic Illness Program - Employee :

(Donations to the below recipients should be made on form F2006b - Catastrophically Ill Employee.) Recipients in this program may receive SP or VA time and the citywide pool is always in need of time:

- #000212 *** Civ. Richard Artist (Co. C) *** Currently needs time
- #000939 Sgt. Mel Cardenas (Co. B)
- #001142 *** Off. Arthur Hernandez (Co. C) *** Currently needs time
- #001181 Confidential (S.F.P.D.)
- #001193 Sgt. Phil Lee, Jr. (Co. H)

Catastrophic Illness Program – Family Member:

(Donations to the below recipients should be made on form F2006a - Catastrophically Ill Family Member.) Recipients in this program – family member; may receive donations of vacation time only:

- #001154 Sgt. Susan Reed (AIRP)

Please forward all original donation forms to the Behavioral Science Unit to ensure posting.

Child of Police Officer, Stricken With Cancer, Needs Our Help

Submitted by Rene LaPrevotte
Retired SFPD

I have a request that I hope you can assist me with. There is an officer in Tennessee whose 5-year old son, Austin Bickford, was diagnosed with cancer (Neuroblastoma) right before Christmas. They did surgery after Christmas and have started chemo. He is in stage 4 and it has spread to his bones.

Since he has been in the hospital, he has received many encouraging emails which have cheered him up and help to keep his parents busy. But, when he goes home he does not have a computer, so I was hoping that officers would mail him a patch or pen from their depart-

ments to help lift his spirits while he is at home.

The doctors have said that he cannot go back to school. He is very proud that his dad is a police officer, so I was hoping you could please take time out of your busy schedules and send him a patch or pin. Also, please say a prayer for him.

There is a website set up at www.caringbridge.org and go to visit site and type in as one word *austin-bickford*. This website that his dad is trying to maintain. It is helping his dad and Austin keep their spirits up and keep busy. Austin’s email is prayforaustin@yahoo.com.

His address is: Austin Bickford, 290 Twins Oaks Rd., Dover, TN. 37058

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Brian Choy

(Father of Adam Choy, Co. A)



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Monthly Luncheon #3

Foothill Fuzz

Wednesday, February 22nd

January’s lunch held in Placerville brought twenty-five soldiers out of the woodwork for lunch, lies, and libations. February we will be back on the North side (US #80) of the Continental Divide.

“The Cafe”@ Thunder Valley Casino

1200 Athens Ave, Lincoln, Calif.

(Exit Hwy #65 @ Twelve Bridges)

Attitude adjustment commences 1100 Lunch at 1230

As usual, attendance is STRICTLY limited to retired or active members of the SFPD or any other law enforcement agency or their friends...

Please RSVP Rene LaPrevotte at (530) 295-0946 or rlaprevotte@comcast.net



Marilyn Rosekind at her surprise birthday party.

BALEAF President Celebrates 75th Birthday

By Robin Matthews
BALEAF Treasurer

On Tuesday morning, January 17th, a number of Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF) Board of Directors threw a surprise 75th birthday party for the organization's President, Mrs. Marilyn Rosekind, during our monthly meeting.

Many of you either know Marilyn personally or are aware of who she is, however, most of you may not know that Marilyn is our Department's oldest survivor - her husband, Barry, who was a motorcycle officer for our

Department, was killed in the line of duty in 1958.

Chief Fong was contacted about Marilyn's upcoming surprise birthday party, and she immediately agreed to have a commendation plaque made to be awarded to Marilyn at the party. Although she was not able to attend and present the plaque to Marilyn herself, Lt. Tom Shawyer from the Chief's Office graciously came in her place and made the presentation to a clearly surprised Marilyn!

Congratulations, Marilyn. Thanks for all you do for everyone. Happy Birthday!



Lt. Tim Foley (Park Station), Sgt. Mary Dunnigan (Behavioral Science Unit), Lt. Tom Shawyer (Chief's Office), Mrs. Marilyn Rosekind, Insp. Robin Matthews (EEO Unit), Off. Tom Walsh (Ingleside Station), Jo-Ellen Radetich (USF), and Capt. John Ehrlich (Park Station).

Chief of Police Commendation Issued to Marilyn Rosekind Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund

In appreciation for your commitment and generous sharing of your talents that symbolizes the true meaning of "San Francisco's Finest."

On behalf of the entire San Francisco Police Department, we wish to extend our sincere and profound gratitude for the time, effort, professionalism, and exemplary performance that you have put forth.

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

— Vince Lombardi



Awarded on January 17th, 2006, Heather J. Fong, Chief of Police

Eric Batchelder Support Through BALEAF

By Robin Matthews
BALEAF Treasurer

The Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF) is currently taking donations to assist Officer Eric Batchelder, who is recovering from losing his leg to a hit and run driver when he was en route to Bayview Station from Mission Station. Officer Nate Steger from Mission Station is orchestrating this donation drive.

BALEAF, as you know, provides support to the law enforcement family who have had members killed in the line of duty, been seriously injured, or have experienced a catastrophic event. All donations to BALEAF are 100% tax deductible.

To make a donation to support Eric, write your checks out to BALEAF with a notation on it that it is for Eric Batchelder. Checks will be accumulated and deposited, and a check for the total will be sent directly to Eric. Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated.

Checks can be sent to Officer Nate Steger at Mission Station, to myself at the EEO Unit in Room 577-4 at the Hall of Justice, or mailed directly to BALEAF at P.O. Box 22325, San Francisco, CA 94122. A letter of acknowledgement for your donation will be sent to you.

Thanks for your continued support of BALEAF. We're here to support you.

Letters to BALEAF

Dear BALEAF -

We were overwhelmed with your generosity towards Molly. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts - knowing you are there to help is so comforting. May God bless you through this coming holiday season.

Diane McKenna

Thank you for thinking of my daughter, Molly. I have told my kids that the SFPD family is always there in times of need. You make me proud to be part of it. God bless you and keep up the good work.

Joe McKenna

Words could never express how much I appreciate your generosity! Thank you so much for thinking of me and my family; really, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It feels good to know there are such good and caring people out there! Thanks again.

Molly McKenna

Dear Members of BALEAF,

Norita and I began working with folks from your Department in 1981. Lord knows alot has happened since

then! This gift to our daughter for her recovery came as a complete surprise. We have always seen our work as a privilege - some of it hard, some of it deep - but it always seemed right. The best prayer to be said in this holiday season is the simplest; Thank You!

Bill Vlach

Dear Members of BALEAF,

On behalf of our entire family, we would like to express our gratitude for your assistance to our daughter, Tanya, following her auto accident. We really appreciate your gift and your generosity! Thank You!

Sincerely,

Norita Vlach

(Bill and Norita Vlach have been long time members of our Department's "Psych Pro" team, who offer support to all of our Department members and their families through the United Behavioral Health benefits program that all of our Department members have. For a complete list of all of our Department "Psych Pros" and other resources to members in the Department and their families, please contact the Behavioral Science Unit at 837-0875).

HEY....SLOW DOWN...

I'VE GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE

As a retired homicide inspector, with the SFPD for 32 years, and as a fellow POA member, I'm out canvassing neighborhoods once again, only for a different reason. I am now a full-time Realtor and have partnered with my wife, Deborah, at Coldwell Banker in Walnut Creek.

We understand that buying and selling real estate can be both exciting and stressful. We will work together with you; managing all of the details of your transaction from beginning to end. And, you can rest assured your real estate investments are being protected by someone you know and can trust.

Ask about our **free** home buyer classes, and our involvement in the Widows' and Orphans' program and other charities.

Should you or anyone you know have real estate needs, we would love to hear from you.



Armand Gordon

Deborah Gordon, SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist)

Contact Armand at 925-395-6810
or Deborah at 925-977-4829

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Retirement Planning Seminar, Class #42

Three Days At The Academy

By Mike Hebel
Welfare Officer, Attorney, CFP

The SFPD regional police academy hosted the SFPD-POA semi-annual pre-retirement seminar (November 7, 8 & 9, 2005) – class #42. The seminar has been expanded to include discussion of social security and medicare benefits, health service system plans, PERS long-term care, post retirement employment, retired/veteran employee organizations, health and nutrition, taxation, essentials of estate planning, and critical psychological issues presented by and in retirement.

This seminar, titled "The Gino Marionetti and Michael Sugrue Memorial Seminar", honors its two founders. May they rest in peace. This seminar is now in its 22nd year having started in March 1985. More than 1740 participants have completed this seminar.

Special thanks to **Chief Heather Fong** and **Captain Ron Roth** for providing the necessary funding to expand the seminar subjects and to allow members a three day detail to make plans for a prosperous and rewarding retirement.

44 Participants

Forty-four participants attended this lively and informative seminar which is coordinated by **Megan Fahey**, POA staff member.

The seat of honor, which is reserved for the most senior member in attendance, was given to **Jim O'Shea** of the 125th recruit class (May 1974). **Beth O'Shea**, an industrial disability retiree, joined her husband Jim at this seminar. A special moment of appreciation was given to senior department members **Marty Bastiani** (50 years' department service joining on 1-19-56) and **Jim Wertz** (49 years' of department service joining on 12-16-56).

Most of the attendees were in the Tier II retirement plan (now having acquired the moniker "Tears Too") having joined the department after November 1976. The 125th - 153rd (September 1982) recruit classes were well represented. The 210th recruit class is currently completing its basic course at the Academy.

As expected, much discussion focused on the 3% at 55, 90% cap charter amendment which was approved by the voters at the November 2002 election. It passed with an unprecedented 65% majority. Also the source of lively discussion was the proposed DROP (deferred retirement option program) for the November

2006 ballot and the Veteran Police litigation regarding POST pay.

Chief Heather Fong welcomed the participants and asked them to put to practical use the information that is contained in this 3 day seminar. She reminded the attendees that police work is a stressful occupation; she exhorted them to take good care of themselves, their families, and their future. She said the focus of this 3 day seminar was to provide adequate time for attendees to attend to their life after the SFPD.

POA president **Gary Delagnes** stated that a large exodus of police officers was expected over the next 12 to 18 months with as many as 150 retirements from the sworn ranks. Between 2006 and 2011, over 800 police officers will join the KMA club; this is most disturbing since the failure

rate amongst the recent recruit classes has approached 30%. He presented the good news on the current MOU with pay raises set for the next 3 years having commenced on July 1, 2004 which, over this period, should exceed 21%. *Gary was commended for his primary role in advancing, in ten years, the total compensation of SF police officers from #92 in the state of California to #2 in the nation (cities with populations of 200,000 and over).* (Sunnyvale is numero uno.) Gary appears close to accomplishing his personal goal of financial freedom for the rank and file: a Q4 police officer, by July 1, 2007, receiving an annual wage of \$98,000 and thereafter retiring with an annual pension of \$88,200. Gary set forth the pay raises that have been received over the last decade: 1992 – 5%; 1993 – 5%; 1994 – 5%; 1995 – 0%; 1996 – 3.5%; 1997 – 3.5%; 1998 – 3.5%; 1999 – 5.5%; 2000 – 5.5%; 2001 – 8%; 2002 – 8%; 2003 – 0%; 2004 – 9% (with uniform allowance); 2005 – 6.5%; 2006 – 4.9%. What a glorious record of accomplishment! This will be known as the **Delagnes-Cunnie legacy**. Gary anticipated that contract negotiations for the next MOU will commence in February 2007. Gary outlined the 30 year police employment cycle: years 1-10, job oriented; years 11-20, promotion oriented; and years 21-30, retirement oriented.

Mike Hebel urged all to consider participation in the 30 – 30 program: 30 years of service and then at least 30 years' collecting a retirement benefit. This is the Hebel corollary to the Delagnes police career path description.

Class Comments

Comments from the attendees during the course evaluation included: *"very helpful and useful information. What an eye opener. A wonderful seminar – the Department did something good for us all. I am glad I came; everyone close to retirement should come to these. Much needed information; should be open to officers with 20 or more years of service. Super and marvelous; I enjoyed this seminar immensely. I am now more confident in the City's retirement system. I would hate to think what would happen if we retired without the knowledge that we now have. Great class, everyone should attend, keep them up. Very good, can I come again. Most practical course I have ever attended. Great facility, coordinators, and presenters."*

Jim O'Shea stated that the biggest stressor in retirement was having to pay retail. **John Harrold** described the perfect retirement as: eat, sleep, and play – a dog's life. **Jim Deely** hopes to be a 6 checker – anticipates getting 6 separate retirement checks. **Captain Jere Williams** was the highest ranking member in attendance. **Jim and Beth O'Shea** joined by **Tom and Michele Walsh** kept the class well entertained with their quick wit and humorous stories – especially about each other. From an anonymous class member comes the following admonition: Cops must think out of the box when it comes to retirement. We are so used to 30 years of taking directions and receiving a check every 2 weeks. At retirement, the gate opens up. You have to think about what to do every day. No can no longer look at a calendar for your days off for every day is a day off. Your retirement requires at

least 3 years' advance planning. Take your pension and go do what you really want to do. Now it is solely your choice.

Instructor Comments

Gary Bozin, ING deferred compensation account representative, noted that "retirement is a whole bunch of weekends strung together." Gary said that the police department's average deferred compensation balances are the highest amongst all city departments. He set forth the 5 most common retirement investing mistakes: miscalculating everyday living expenses, underestimating health care costs, underestimating life expectancy, investing too conservatively, and failing to recognize the impact of inflation. ING's Police Department deferred compensation account representative. He said that the newly added life style portfolios (near term, mid term and long term), with their automatic daily rebalancing, were particularly attractive offerings for broad diversification. Each strategy suits a specific investor profile – based on the number of years you have until your planned start of distribution. Gary told the class that the stock market loses money, on average, 3 out of every 10 years; but those 7 up years far out distance the losers. For the long term trend in the stock market is definitely and demonstrably up.

When to start social security payments? The class agreed, the sooner the better. If you began to collect at age 62 (the earliest age allowable) rather than at age 66 (normal retirement age for baby boomers), it would take 14 years for the older recipients to catch up.

Wow! said many: a CCSF retirement pension (at 90%), deferred compensation distributions, and social security.

George Eimil, retired deputy chief and dedicated instructor in these seminars, said that he began estate planning as an attorney when he realized after his 1986 retirement that he needed something more than golf to keep him occupied. George does an excellent job in explaining the basics of estate planning (wills, trusts, gifting, probate and its avoidance, estate taxes, powers of attorney, property titles, and medical directives). George covers a lot of territory in 50 minutes. His advice on dying remains: "If you have to, the year 2010 is best for federal estate tax avoidance." He again warned attendees not to put their real property in joint tenancy with anyone other than your spouse or domestic partner. With respect to titling property, he continues to urge the use of "community property with right of survivorship" for best tax advantages. He urged the use of a revocable living trust to avoid probate and to protect estate tax exclusions.

It was noted that the average retirement age for San Francisco police officers in 1931 was 71.5 years; in 2003, the average age was 52.5. Quite a difference in two generations.

Tier I vs. Tier II

The participants reviewed the retirement/survivor benefits contained in the two police retirement plans. Tier I (pre-November 1976) remains superior for 3 main reasons: 1. spousal/domestic partner continuances are 25%

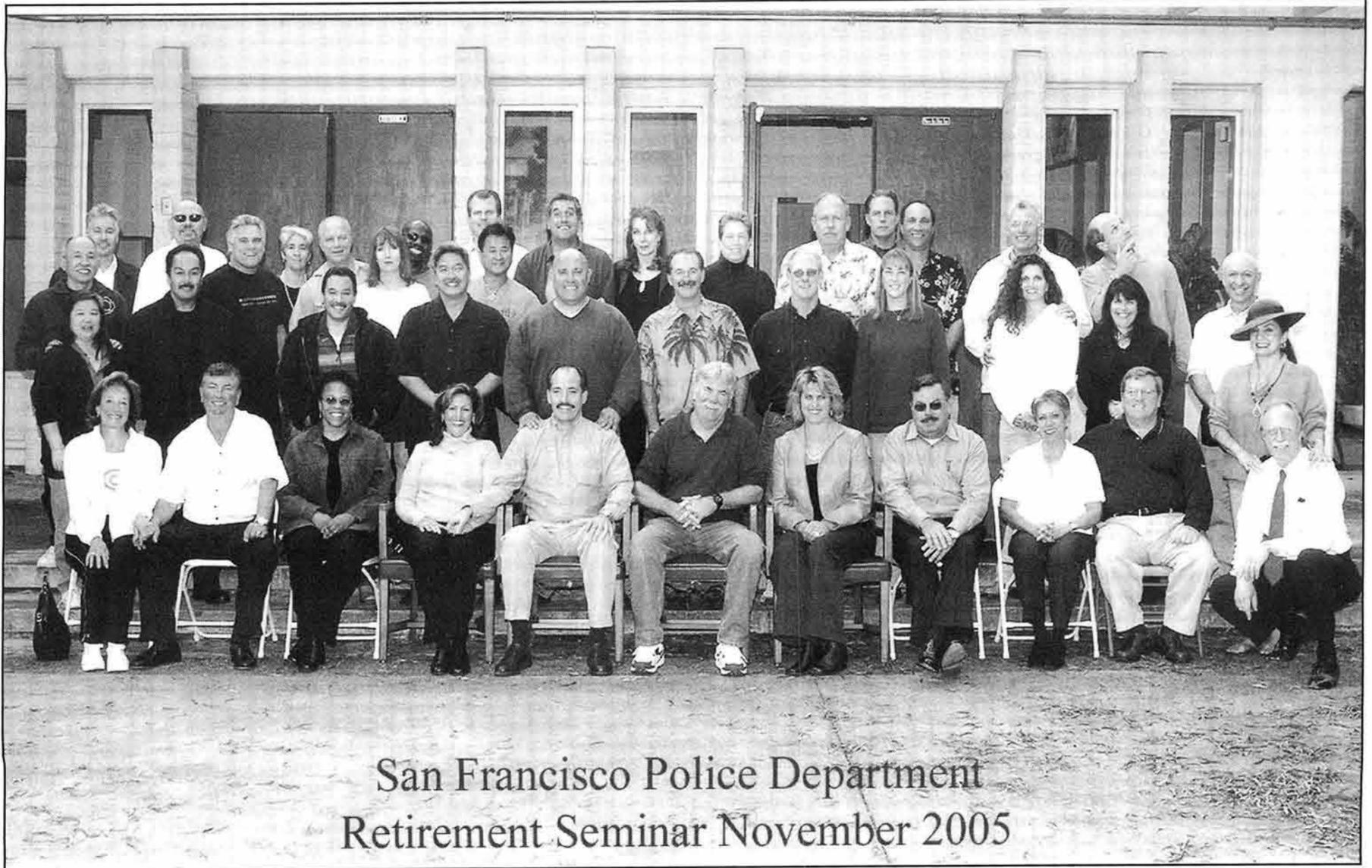
larger; 2. cost of living adjustments are at least 2 times better; and 3. the marriage rights are superior (a Tier I member can marry after retirement, live one year, and then the spouse is entitled to a continuation; for Tier II, the marriage must have occurred at least one year before retirement for there to be a spousal continuation entitlement).

To understand the cost of living adjustment (cola) differences, the class undertook a comparison exercise. One of the presenters, who retired holding the rank of sergeant in May 1976 in the Tier I system with nearly 30 years' service at age 51, received his first monthly check in the amount of \$1,130 - having contributed less than \$15,000 in retirement system contributions over his long career. In November 2005 that monthly check had grown to over \$4,200 thanks to the power of the cost of living adjustments. The class was asked to compute the November 2004 monthly check that would be received if this retiree had been governed by the Tier II cost of living adjustment. For purposes of this exercise, the class considered only the basic non-compounded 2% and not the supplemental 1% cola which is dependent upon Retirement System excess earnings. To their amazement, a Tier II retirement, over this same 29 year period, would have grown to only \$1,784.40. **The difference between a Tier I and Tier II monthly pension, in this example, was \$2,415.60 per month.** Why? Tier I grew at a 4.7% compounded rate; Tier II grew at a 2% non-compounded rate. *Fortunately, the supplemental 1% cola has been paid in every year since its adoption in 1996, except 2003-04, thereby lessening, but not eliminating, the cola differences in the two systems.* Tier II attendees quickly realized that a Charter amendment was needed to improve their annual cost of living adjustments. The retired sergeant also reminded the class that police wages were set by Charter amendment prior to 1953; by annual salary survey from 1954 onward; and now by collective bargaining since 1992.

Other Observations

Chief Fong continues the tradition of gifting every retiree with his/her police officer star as the Department's recognition for a job well done; this has also reduced to zero the number of missing/lost police star reports made by those members approaching retirement age.

Attendees were stunned by the costs of health coverage upon retirement. Few had realized just how good the POA Memorandum of Understanding is in keeping these costs down for members and their families. After retirement, there is no subsidized dental plan, but thanks to Proposition E (Nov. 2001 ballot) there now is a medical care monetary subsidy for the principal dependent. The member's health care cost on retirement, depending upon the plan selected and the number of dependents included, is zero or highly subsidized. **Susan Rodriguez-Cairns**, HSS benefits analyst, urged participants to take care of their dental needs before retiring. She emphasized that the HSS plans, excepting the City's plan, were geographically limited. She said that the HSS walk-in hours are 8 am to 4:45pm; phone calls are taken



San Francisco Police Department
Retirement Seminar November 2005

for four hours every day. On an average day, there are up to 200 walk-ins and over 1,000 phone calls.

Special thanks to Tom Cunnane, SFPD physical training specialist, for his 10th presentation on exercise, health, and nutrition. Tom noted the top 3 police disabilities: cardiovascular, gastro-intestinal, and low back. He delivered the good news that police officers are surviving/living longer into their retirements than 10 years ago. The reason: more awareness of positive behaviors and attitudes that lead to a healthy life style. Upon observing that diets don't work (he calls them starvation plans), Tom urged exercise and less eating. When asked how to determine if you need a diet, Tom quipped: "Look in a mirror!" He noted that at any time almost 45% of the US population is on diets. Tom noted that the biggest health epidemic in the US is now diabetes due to excess sugar consumption. "America is getting fatter and less physically active." He urged all participants to become avid walkers (using the proper shoes) or gardeners. He recommends a heart monitor as a Christmas gift or an annual subscription to the UC Berkeley "Wellness Letter." He praised the benefits of 6 to 8 glasses of water daily (toxin removal) and vitamins C and E (anti-oxidant).

Dr. Forrest Fulton, Ph.D. (formerly of the behavioral science unit, retired July 2003, now studying to become a gerontologist) reminded the attendees that men are the suicide gender with men's rates now increasing and women's decreasing. Reason: women are better at expressing their feelings. He urged the use of stress reducers including restriction of caffeine and alcohol and the elimination of tobacco. Relying on the work of George Valliant entitled *Aging Well*, Dr. Fulton said that longitudinal research has shown what life styles led to a successful life. He mentioned: good attitude, positive self identity, intimacy in relationships, love-work-play in balance,

career transitions, generous & giving back, keepers of meaning, mentoring other people, integrity and a personal value system, need for a retirement plan with fun and creativity, wisdom in old age, and a spiritual dimension to help give meaning to life.

Becky Boling, PERS long term care account director, said that this PERS program was in its 11th year with over 175,000 participants in the program. She presented the following facts: in California, the average cost for care in a nursing home is \$180 per day or over \$65,000 annually; care that is received at home can cost more than \$20,000 a year; and that the average nursing home stay is 2.6 years. When asked what are the odds that a person will ever need long term care, she responded that 60% of people over age 65 will need some type of long term care. PERS long term care program information can be obtained by calling: 800-266-1050.

Retirement Board commissioner Al Casciato helped bring this seminar to a most successful conclusion. Al proudly told the attendees that San Francisco has one of the few public retirement plans that are funded at over 105%. He urged the members to stay active in the retiree organizations to protect their retirement and health service benefits.

Next Seminar

The next retirement planning seminar is scheduled for May 22, 23 & 24, 2006. The seminar will be available to the first 50 persons, members and their spouses/partners, who contact the POA after the announcement is sent to all members with or near retirement eligibility. Preference is given to those members who are near retirement or who have already contacted the Retirement System for their retirement dates. The seminar fills up quickly so don't delay. Contact Megan at the POA (861-5060) if you desire advance notification of this seminar.

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Gary Bozin
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POA MAIL



Dear Gary –

Words cannot express my gratitude! Working with you and everyone at the POA has been wonderful! You have helped us make a huge difference in the lives of so many children.

Kelley O'Brien
UCSF Children's Hospital

Gary –

I have thoroughly agreed with your positions expressed in the *Journal*. You have a wonderful ability to write your opinion on complex issues in a very simple convincing manner. Congratulations! Keep up the good work!

Vicki Quinn
[Retired SFPD]

Dear SFPOA–

Thank you for all the years of kind gifts.
Happy Holidays!

Love
Jolene and Matt Blessing

Dear POA–

Thank you for your generous gift. It was just one more thing that made this a great year. I'm a junior in high school who participates in varsity basketball and track. I take several AP and Honors classes. My sights are set upon UCSD or UCLA. It has been a wonderful year, and once again thank you.

Tony Nelson

Dear POA –

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to apply for the Jeff Barker Scholarship Award. Thank you for

the \$500 award. It will pay for all my books this semester, and is greatly appreciated!

Thank you,
Kristi Morales

Dear SFPOA –

Thank you for always remembering my son Anthony for the holidays. I am deeply touched, filled with gratitude. Have a happy and safe holiday.

Always,
Marty Sacco

Dear POA –

I want to thank you so much for your generous gift. I appreciate that the POA remembers me each year. I will turn 16 next month and the money will be used for a car.

Thanks again. Happy holidays.
Sincerely,
Tony Sacco

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and the Institute on Aging, thank you so much for your donation of \$500.00 to sponsor our 19th Annual Cable Car Caroling Event. This year's event was held on Sunday, December 11, 2005.

Your support helps us provide vital programs and services to seniors the Bay Area, including the 24-hour Friendship Line, one-on-one and group counseling, and telephone outreach to older adults who face issues of suicide, depression, abuse, and grief.

Your generous and loyal assistance helps to make this program possible. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,
Patrick Arbore
Program Director
Institute on Aging

The following letter to San Francisco Chronicle columnists Matier and Ross was copied and emailed by the author to the POA Journal. In turn, the letter was forwarded to POA President Gary Delagnes. Gary's response was also copied to the Journal, and both letters are reprinted as follows. – Ed.

Dear Mr. Matier and Mr. Ross –

I read your article this morning and was absolutely blown away with the comments made by Gary Delagnes.

"According to police and City Hall sources, Mayor Gavin was shocked (shocked!) by the number of small-time drug dealers in the neighborhood (Tenderloin) and demanded that more cops be put on the streets. It was a topic he never tired of bringing up with police union boss Gary Delagnes.

In time, Delagnes – a former narco cop with more than a dozen years of experience on the streets – grew a bit tired of the mayor's obsession.

"With all due respect, Mr. Mayor, we could put a cop on every corner, and the drug dealers would just deal in between them," Delagnes said. "But if you are really tired of seeing drug dealers, there is one solution I could suggest."

"What's that?" the mayor asked.

"Try jogging somewhere else."

I am forwarding to you a letter I wrote to the Mayor, Police, and media on Friday morning that only makes your article more upsetting to me. Please help me get a hold of this waste of taxpayer's dollars so that I can forward my letter to him also, and hopefully make him ashamed of his stupid "advice" for the Mayor.

I have a suggestion for him, step down and take a job you actually care about.

His comments are absolutely inappropriate as people live in this neighborhood and he is basically saying that there is no purpose of complaining or paying attention to the problems here. I really hope that these slime balls get exposed

as some of the most corrupt officials in the State of California. What a shame that this City has such inadequate and pessimistic voices representing it. Thanks for listening; I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,
Greg Mikusinski

Dear Greg –

I have read your comments about me with regards to the Matier and Ross article. You should know that I am a native San Franciscan and have spent the bulk of my police career in the Tenderloin. I walked a beat, drove a radio car, and worked as an undercover narcotics officer almost exclusively in the Tenderloin from 1979-2004.

There are very few people who know the area better than I and very few people who have worked harder in that community to clean it up for law-abiding citizens. I have made over 4,000 arrests personally in the Tenderloin over my career. I have been punched, bitten, stabbed, poked with hypodermic needles, and shot at on those streets and I can assure you I have left much of my blood, sweat, and tears there.

If you are angry at anybody point your finger at the judges, juries, defense attorneys, and political climate of a city that caters to criminals and continually turns them loose time after time after time.

The officers of the SFPD put their lives on the line every-day for people such as yourself. This organization donates over \$30,000 per year to charitable organizations such as Civic Center Plaza reclamation group, Glide Memorial, San Anthony's kitchen, and the Tenderloin Youth Center. You should vent your anger at the people that do not protect your safety, and I would recommend that you take a closer look at the members of the Board of Supervisors who only make the situation worse.

Gary Delagnes

Dear POA –

My sincere thanks for the generosity of the POA for our St. Agnes fundraiser. God bless you guys and your families this Christmas season. Hope our paths cross soon.

Gratefully,
Rev. J. Cameron Ayers, S.J.
St. Agnes Church

Dear POA –

Happy New Year!

On behalf of at-risk youth and their families at Huckleberry Youth Programs (HYP), thank you for your support of the Cirque du Soleil benefit performance on December 2.

HYP is extremely fortunate to be the beneficiary youth service organization Cirque has chosen to be their San Francisco partner. Like us, Cirque has a philanthropic mission of helping youth at risk. From this successful benefit event, we raised almost \$185,000 – with all proceeds going directly to our programs! We could not have done this without your involvement.

Again, we appreciate your help and hopefully, Cirque du Soleil will be back in San Francisco in 2007!

Sincerely,
Bruce Fisher
Huckleberry Youth Programs
Executive Director

Dear POA –

Ocean View, Merced Heights, Ingleside-Neighbors In Action wishes to thank you for your continued support with your donation toward our annual Christmas Party.

We had approximately 400 adults and children in attendance at our party held on Saturday, December 17, 2005. Everyone was served ice cream and cookies. In addition, over 300 neighborhood children received a gift from Santa Claus.

With the number who attend, it is obvious that the party is an annual event the neighborhood children and families look forward to, and need. Your donation allows us to make this event possible.

Sincerely,
Mary C. Harris,
President, OMI Neighbors in Action

Dear SFPOA

We sincerely thank you for your generous contribution to Police-Fire Post 456 of the American Legion. Because of persons and organizations such as yours, we are able to continue our charitable efforts and touch the lives of our oft forgotten veterans who have given so much to our country. We appreciate your donation. You have made our visit to the Fort Miley Veteran's Hospital a huge success.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Belt
Post Commander/District Adjutant
San Francisco Police Post No. 456
American legion

Dear Marty,

Thank you and the Board of Directors for your generous support of the Park Station Holiday Outreach to the youth in the Western Addition. The funds provided by the SFPOA went toward the purchase of baseball mitts and "Bratt" dolls. Park Station Officers distributed these and other items to the young people in the Pitts and Marcus Garvey Housing Developments. This effort provided a positive forum for officers to connect on an individual basis with the young people and their parents in this community. The recipients were overwhelmed by the gesture of good will and kindness from the Officers of Park Station and the SFPOA. Your donation and support helped make our station's community outreach effort a success.

Fraternally,
Lt.'s Tim Foley and Ann Mannix
Park Station

Dear SFPOA –

Thank you for your support of the 10th Annual Mission Toy Giveaway, a joint project of St. John's Educational Thresholds Center and Mission Police Station.

By all estimates, more than 1,000 kids showed up to the event on a dreary rainy day. Your generous contribution helped us send every child home with at least three brand new toys.

Once again, on behalf of Mission Police Station and St. John's Educa-

tional Thresholds Center, and all the kids who lined up to see Santa, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Ethel Siegel Newlin
Community & Programs Liaison
St. John's Educational Thresholds
Center

Dear Sgt. Perez,

On behalf of the officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, I would like to congratulate you for having been conferred a bronze medal of valor for exceptional bravery in the line of duty.

Your achievement has brought honor and a sense of pride not only to your family but also to the Filipino American community in San Francisco and the Bay Area. The award is also a fitting recognition of your dedication and professional commitment as an officer of the San Francisco Police Department.

With my best wishes and warmest regards.

Mabuhay!

Very Truly yours
Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez
Counsel General of the Philippines

Dear POA –

We are happy to send our thanks at this time of year for your participation in this year's Scleroderma Benefit as we had the best year ever. We were able to donate \$26,000.00 to fund research for this terrible disease.

This was the seventeenth year of the golf tournament that Sandy [Hazelhofer] started with a few friends and we wish she could see what it has become. Scleroderma has taken Sandy's life and others in our support group. Our donation to the Scleroderma Research Foundation will help fund their efforts to find the cause and the cure to stop the suffering and death and with your continued support we know it's possible.

Very truly yours,
Jerry Hill
Pleasanton Lions Club

Dear POA –

Thank you for your generous gift to the American Red Cross. Donations from caring individuals like you enable us to help people in times of crisis, no matter when or where disaster strikes.

No matter how difficult times may be, no matter how terrible the disasters that strike, supporters like you are always there when we need you. It is only with your help that the Red Cross is able to provide vital programs and 24-hour relief services that meet the needs of our community.

Thank you again for your kindness. Your support makes our work possible; we could not do it without you.

Sincerely,
Harold W. Brooks
American Red Cross

Dear Friends of Hamilton,

On behalf of the families we serve at Hamilton Family Center, thank you for your group's generous gift. Your thoughtfulness during the season of giving brightens the lives of homeless families and children in crisis and offers hope for the future. Your donation is truly fundamental as we continue offering shelter, support and hope to each and every person who comes through our doors.

Once again, we are grateful that you have partnered with Hamilton

Family Center to support homeless families as they strive to make positive changes in their lives. Our best wishes to you for a happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Salvador Menjivar
Executive Director
Hamilton Family Center

Dear POA –

Thank you for your generous gift to Meals On Wheels of San Francisco. This year we are celebrating 35 years of delivering hope to homebound seniors. Thanks to generous supporters like you, we have been providing meals and essential social services in San Francisco since 1970. We are truly grateful for your generosity, as your support is essential in helping the elderly in our community live independently and with dignity.

On behalf of all of us at Meals On Wheels, and especially the seniors we serve, thank you for your gracious support.

Sincerely,
Sima Dahi, MS, RD
Chief Executive Officer
Meals on Wheels

The Final Kick

By Andrew Cohen
Support Services

It's Super Bowl Sunday, there are 6 seconds left on the clock in the fourth quarter and the ball is on the 20-yard line, it's 4th down and we are down by two. It is up to the field goal kicker to win the game with an easy tap through the uprights. The ball is snapped, the crowd is on its feet, the ball is up and heading for a victorious journey through the yellow markers and the kicker is beginning his joyous celebration with only the slightest hesitation.

Member's Commentary

Up to this game he has never missed a kick from within the 50-yard line and has been lauded for his 50+ yard kicks to win some nerve racking nail biters. The media had created a local hero and the fans were firmly behind him. For it was this man, this mere mortal who had made this team what it was this year and who brought hope and excitement back into what was becoming a struggling spiral of monotony and disappointment.

The team began to "clear the bench", and were beginning their sprint onto the field to lift their star high into the air and show him off for all of the world to see. Then, reality struck.

What was to happen next became surreal and nauseating. Time had slowed to a snails pace and it was the

whole world, which stood on their toes to witness the ball, edging towards the left upright and, although it seemed like eternity, the end had finally arrived. The ball hit the bright, yellow pole with a gentle touch and bounced back toward the kicker as if it was simply too timid for this journey. The disappointment of the crowd was overwhelming. All of the teammates were frozen in their tracks as the lone kicker bowed his head and prayed for someone to console him and let him know that all would be ok in the world. He had been told that this was only a game. There would be many successes and failures. This was a team effort, and when the team won, the whole team would enjoy the victory, and when the team lost, the entire team would endure the grief. So what had happened?

The fair weathered crowd turned their backs and placed the blame of this loss directly on the kicker. His teammates tried to act supportive but their faces told a completely different story. Their icon of hope had let them down at a crucial point and now he would have to weather this loss for his team, for the rest of his career (if he still had one) and possibly even for the rest of his life.

Now comes the obvious parallel.

Although I am no one's hero (with the exception of my fiancé and children), and I am certainly not an icon of hope, I AM one of your teammates. I performed to the best of my abilities for 10+ years. And although I have never been lauded or celebrated for any of my achievements, I continued

to work hard to further my plight: to showcase the rank and file officer in the SFPD. To champion the "Brave-in-Blue". I did this because nobody else would, and damn it, we deserve it!

I am not going to waste time here patting myself on the back, nor am I going to define myself as the martyr. I am simply going to share some thoughts.

It seems that no matter how many successful kicks I have completed in my career, I am going to be known for my final kick, the infamous "Fodder Gate" comedy video. I really thought that my "family" would come to my side in my time of need and stand shoulder to shoulder. I thought that all of my past work would allow me to rise above this scandal and with the support I had envisioned, we would finally make a stand and perhaps even make some much needed change that I have been advocating for quite some time. How wrong I was.

This was our chance. The whole world WAS watching as the Mayor and Chief, in one strategic, political press conference, denounced the entire department. With the exception of myself, very few members of this department made a single statement, except of course for the usual, internal rumors and innuendo (those which keep this department in it's current state of constant turmoil). I was aghast and in absolute disbelief upon hearing some of the allegations being passed around about me. Yes, I know, I know, it was stupid of me to have placed those comedy clips on the website, spank me, spank me twice if

you must, but get over it. This was a comedy video for us. I didn't make this scandal the national outrage that it became, I just wanted to see you laugh and smile. Let me repeat that. I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU LAUGH AND SMILE!

Oh, and let me add, you did laugh and smile quite a bit. Nonetheless, for all of the grief that was caused by this, I am truly sorry.

So here we are. Morale is even lower than it was, if that is even possible. Bayview cops are scattered all over the Hall and about the city. I have been ostracized and stuffed in the Records room while the "Investigation" continues. What are they investigating anyways? Yes, I made a comedy, what more can they seek and why are they trying so hard to find something? Could it be that they are embarrassed by what they have done and now they have to dig something up in order to justify their initial, improper actions?

This is, without a doubt, the most dysfunctional organization I have ever bared witness to in my near 40 years on this planet.

Okay, I think my point is pretty clear. I don't expect you to change your stance or perceptions on this matter, but I needed to get this stuff off of my chest. There is one thing for certain that will come from all of this: You won't need to worry about my videos in the future. This chapter is closed. This department is simply not ready.

Good luck to us all and may God be with us.

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Presentation by Deputy Chief Morris Tabak to the Police Commission on January 18, 2006

On January 18, 2006, Deputy Chief of Investigations Morris Tabak delivered the following report to the San Francisco Police Commission. The thrust of his report centers on the incidence of homicides in the Bayview District. In the opinion of the POA leadership, this report correctly explains the existing problems as well as a sorely needed public expression

of support from the SFPD command staff for the homicide investigators and the street officers who patrol the beleaguered district. When asked about reprinting his comments, Chief Tabak was reluctant, but did acknowledge that it was a matter of public record. He made no further comment. So, as a matter of public record, here is the text of that address. — Ray Shine

Good evening Commissioners. This evening I will be presenting an overview of all homicides that occurred in 2005. This will be the fourth such presentation that I have made before this body in the past twenty-three months. You will hear some of the same statistical information that I have presented in the past, all of which is included in your handout. I would, however, like to take a few minutes to set the tone for this presentation and I would request that you don't jump ahead in your hand out but rather follow along when I begin the Power Point. But tonight's presentation will be slightly different from past ones. I think it is critically important for everyone to get an accurate sense of what is the state of affairs in San Francisco, and why some things happen here that may not happen somewhere else, and numbers or statistics alone don't tell the story. So I've decided for tonight's presentation, to include some additional information in order to reflect reality, because after all, we deal in reality. I will not simply use empirical data, but I will also include the comments and observations of others, as well as citing some actual examples, which I plan to do at the end if time allows. I believe that this approach will bring balance to tonight's presentation and help validate the information.

their very nature are less preventable than others.

In a City with the demographics like San Francisco's, with dense populated areas and a small geographical footprint, the reality is that every year there is going to be anywhere from fifty to sixty homicides. This figure varies from year to year and decade to decade.

There are many dynamic factors that affect the homicide rate, many of which are outside police control. Spontaneous domestic type disputes, other types of disputes, jealousy, lovers triangle, greed, bar fights, murder-suicide, a mother who is accused of throwing three small children off a pier, are just some examples of the many types of homicides that occurred in San Francisco in 2005, and would have occurred in any like city, and no amount of police intervention would have probably prevented them. The police have virtually no way of preventing these types of homicides since in most cases they are spontaneous and/or occur indoors. So every year in San Francisco, people are going to get into conflict with one another or because of emotional or other personal issues, they will commit homicide. The motives for these types of homicides are generally personal or due to other social issues. The fact that

ment from everyone. Community policing is about finding long-term solutions to our community's problems. The Police Dept. is only a part of the solution. But it is difficult to have true community policing without the community.

Without the community it becomes a hollow concept. Information is the lifeblood of policing, and it comes from people. People in the community have the information that we need to solve and prevent crime. Our rate of success is proportionate to the community's willingness to help.

When we get information commonly referred to as a lead from a witness or victim, our ability to clear or solve a case is approx eighty percent. Without this information the success rate is less than ten percent.

Especially when it comes to homicides, the police seem to get the blame and are held accountable. It seems ironic to me, that those who are actually committing the homicides and those in the community who had information that could have prevented it, or have information that could solve a homicide but chose not to, are rarely held accountable in the court of public opinion.

Holding the Police Department accountable for every homicide would be like holding the Fire Department accountable for every fire, or the Department of Public Health doctors accountable for every disease.

I hear and read comments made too often by some, such as:

- "the Police are not working hard enough" or,
- "crime is out of control" or,
- "there is a crisis" or,
- "there is a disconnect between the police and the community."

None of which, by the way, are accurate, in my opinion. It also seems that everyone knows how to do our job better than we do. It would be refreshing, if these same people would expend the same amount of energy, time and resources that they expend to criticize the Police, and instead focus that effort toward the root cause and

be a snitch attitude, the community should take the attitude of, *prevent a murder, solve a murder, be a hero for your community*. By taking the latter approach, the community actually ends up helping themselves. They would be better served by fixing the problem instead of fixing blame. We will work with anyone who is willing to work along side of us, in order to make any neighborhood safer. But there is only so much the police department can do without witnesses. We need community leaders to help us in reaching out to witnesses and encourage them to do the right thing.

In approximately eighty percent of our homicides, we have identified the perpetrator, but due to witnesses not willing to come forward, these cases remain open until other means of identifying the suspect is developed, most of the time forensically. But that is not always possible, and without a willing witness, the case remains open or unsolved, but more importantly, the murderer remains unaccountable. Without accountability, there can't be a sense of justice for those affected by violence. What we need from the community is their support and commitment, not criticism and excuses. Many of the solutions rest with the community and, therefore, the community is the one that set the tone for what happens in their neighborhoods.

If only half of the witnesses came forward with the information they possess, our ability to clear cases would probably double, but more importantly, the number of homicides that would be prevented by the arrest of these suspects would increase exponentially, because most homicide or attempted homicide suspects offend multiple times. The unwillingness of witnesses to come forward actually exacerbates the homicide rate by allowing murderers to remain out of custody and re-offend multiple times or become victims themselves.

Other dynamic factors that affect crime in San Francisco are the historically high charging standards set by

What I say tonight is not meant in anyway to accuse, blame or attack any person, group or entity. It is not my intention to be disrespectful to anyone or 'not' be politically correct. But it is difficult, if not near impossible, to talk about reality without being brutally honest.

What I say tonight is not meant in anyway to accuse, blame or attack any person, group or entity. It is not my intention to be disrespectful to anyone or 'not' be politically correct. But it is difficult, if not near impossible, to talk about reality without being brutally honest. I am a firm believer that by identifying the problem, more often than not, we also identify the solution. Solutions are what gives everyone hope and purpose. So it is with that spirit and goal that I make this presentation to you this evening. Any comments that I make, or conclusions that I draw, are based on my twenty-seven and one-half years of experience of doing the job here, and I take full ownership and responsibility for any comment that I make tonight.

Every homicide is tragic. We know how devastating it is to the victim's family and loved ones. But it also affects the entire community where it occurs. Except under very limited circumstances, there is no one-hundred percent sure way to prevent all homicides. Like it or not, that's the reality. There is also a distinction among homicides. Some, by their very nature are not preventable. Some, by

these types of homicides occur is not a result of police inaction or indifference, which unfortunately is a theme that I hear and read far too often, but rather, are due to a variety of social issues that the Police Department has little or no affect on.

Over the past year, the term community policing has been used by many as the key to preventing and solving homicide and other crime. It's as though the concept had suddenly been invented. The philosophy of community policing has been around as long as I've been with the San Francisco Police Department. We've been doing community policing long before most departments and before it became a cliché. I was doing it as a young patrol officer and others were doing it before that.

True community policing is a cooperative effort that involves everyone who is affected, City government, civic leaders, social, educational and faith-based groups, and most importantly, the community. It is a form of mutual checks and balances placing shared accountability and responsibility on everyone, not just the Police Department. It requires a sustained commit-

Some find it easier to blame the Police Department for the homicide rate because it deflects criticism from their lack of action. We become the focus and convenient political fodder.

work on a solution and that is the lack of family involvement, accountability and the lack of parenting skills on the part of many.

Some find it easier to blame the Police Department for the homicide rate because it deflects criticism from their lack of action. We become the focus and convenient political fodder. This has a significant downside for everyone. This is a dynamic factor that only the community can fix themselves. Instead of taking a, *don't*

the District Attorney's office, lack of accountability for juveniles who commit violent crime, and lenient court dispositions, just to name a few. These factors help exacerbate the crime rate because the suspect remains out of custody and free to re-offend. I need to stress that this pattern did not evolve suddenly; this has been the case for decades.

For those factors that we do have some control and affect on, we have made considerable progress over the

past twenty-four months. We have been successful in significantly reducing the black-on-black gang related homicides by the implementation of our 'Target Specific Strategy' and this reduction is not a fact that every City can represent, if any. To reduce the violence and overcome the reluctant witness/victim issues, the San Francisco Police Department became more proactive as evidenced by the vast number of arrested individuals for firearm violations. In these cases, we don't need citizen involvement; the officers are the lead witnesses against the suspect.

The same is true for narcotics enforcement. Drugs, guns and violence are all linked. The police department uses drug enforcement to obtain felony convictions which is a prerequisite for the Federal Triggerlock charge. We partnered with U.S. Attorney Kevin Ryan's office to attack and dismantle gangs in the Bayview, Ingleside and Western Addition. The Federal grand jury process and the indictments that they handed down have been largely responsible for the reduction of the black-on-black gang homicides. Early on, we also identified the need for certain tools that would make our violence reduction strategy more successful and we set out on a course to obtain them.

Numerous conversations with the City Attorney's office requesting civil gang injunctions have proven fruitful. As of November 2005, the City Attorney's office announced the start of that program and we thank City Attorney Dennis Herrera for that. Numerous conversations with the Sheriff's Department encouraging them to acquire the necessary technology that will allow us to monitor jail conversations immediately when someone is housed in the county jail, a technology enjoyed by virtually every other jurisdiction in California, which, up until now, we have not been able to do. This program is due to begin in March of this year, and we thank Sheriff Mike Hennessey for that. And finally, due to our continued numerous requests, and conversations with the District Attorney's office, it seems that they may now consider the use of the grand jury process as a regular tool, especially for the black-on-black gang homicides, an extremely valuable tool, and probably one of the most effective means of attacking and dismantling gangs. We thank the District Attorney Kamala Harris for that. We continue to advocate for the creation of a dedicated motion to revoke (MTR) court for consistent dispositions. We continue to advocate for reciprocal public housing relocation outside San Francisco for witness and victim relocation. We have recently relocated our homicide unit to accommodate and facilitate its expansion, the start up of a dedicated cold case unit, and for the first time in San Francisco Police Department history, our own wire technology. Our crime laboratory has recently received ASCLAD LAB accreditation in all forensic disciplines, an achievement that only three-hundred & twelve crime labs out of more than four-thousand worldwide can enjoy. And due to other organizational changes made by the crime laboratory under the direction of Dr. Holt, we have significantly increased our ability to process forensic evidence. We expect this trend to continue, with the addition of new criminalist positions and technology, such as robotics.

This is only a sampling of the many changes and the progress that has been made, and none of this existed twenty-

four months ago.

We are committed to ending the senseless violence that too often plagues our neighborhoods. We will use every mean and tool available. And when those tools are not available, we will advocate for them and work hard towards getting them. Because, the only way to send a strong and clear message, is to hold those responsible for the violence accountable. San Franciscans deserve that and the San Francisco Police Department is committed to that mission.

So, in order to assist me in presenting reality, I have given tonight's presentation something that I haven't given to past presentations, and that is a theme. The theme of tonight's presentation is, "*No Consequence Equals (=) No Deterrence.*"

What followed was a comprehensive Power Point presentation that highlighted the San Francisco Police Department's anti-violence efforts and accomplishments, especially the thirty-one percent reduction in the black-on-black gang related homicides, when comparing 2004 to 2005, an enviable statistic in most United States cities. Also, San Francisco rates twenty-four out of twenty-five major cities in the lowest per capita category for homicides. The presentation included photographs of some of the eleven-hundred & forty-six firearms seized

in 2005 by the San Francisco Police Department, quotes from different articles from others highlighting the importance of family involvement in preventing children from getting into gangs and violence. It also included two photographs that underscored that message. The first was a photograph of an assault weapon found hidden underneath a child's crib. Visible in this photograph are a Spiderman blanket and a teddy bear. The other photograph shows a group of men flashing gang signs and wearing the color blue. In the center of the photograph, a five year old boy is also wearing blue and holding a handgun in his left hand while the father proudly holds him.

Deputy Chief Tabak then contrasted some cases that occurred in San Francisco and similar cases in San Mateo County. The consequence in San Mateo clearly sent a strong deterrence message as opposed to dispositions in San Francisco. One quote was from an ex-gang member who now lectures on the "life." This quote essentially states that gang members from Daly City prefer to hang out and commit crime in San Francisco because the system is more lenient than in San Mateo County.

Additional notable comments made by Deputy Chief Tabak after the Power Point or in response to questions:

- Those same suspects who are illegally possessing guns are the same

individuals committing the shootings throughout the city. However, as you can see – a suspect in San Francisco can be arrested up to ten times for gun possession without severe consequences – and when there are not consequences, there is no deterrent.

- We still see ex-felons in possession of firearms plead out to misdemeanor charges. We see high-risk individuals arrested for misdemeanor gun charges and spend almost no time in jail.

- If someone has a substance abuse problem, clearly rehabilitation is the ultimate solution. San Francisco wants it and the San Francisco Police Department wants it. However, in the zeal to get people into treatment, we've created a system that caters to drug dealers. Dealers come from all over the Bay Area to ply their trade on the streets of San Francisco. These dealers often claim substance abuse and routinely take advantage of the programs and services originally designed to treat the very people they exploit. These dealers profit from those addicted and then add insult to injury by taking their spots in treatment programs.

- It's time for everybody else to get to work. If everyone else would work as hard as the men and woman of this Department then, and only then, will we start to see systemic change. If we want to see systemic change, then everyone has to work towards a common goal.

Community Policing?

By Dennis Bianchi
Retired SFPD

There has been much talk and reporting recently about the relationship of the San Francisco Police Department and the escalating number of homicides in San Francisco. Along with the depressingly somber data, there is also talk of a "new" Community Policing unit that will somehow slow down or stop this violence. The news reports struck me as something I had read before, because, of course I had. I served the City of San Francisco as a police officer and inspector for thirty years and have lectured in Criminal Justice courses at San Francisco State University and Skyline College. I have read and heard similar cries for "new" or specialized units for many of those years, and yet, here we are again, looking for answers.

Commentary

At least one member of the Board of Supervisors has complained that there has been no clear definition of what Community Policing in San Francisco will be. This should not come as a surprise as the textbooks are filled with a variety of definitions and descriptions, sometimes at odds with each other. One textbook was trying to change the title of community policing to "problem solving policing," as if that would make it clearer. What all of those words do have in common, however, is that a police department is usually much more successful in completing its objectives if the community in which they work is willing to work with them. Their rate of success is frequently measured in numbers

but, of course, numbers never give us the complete picture. Throughout the course of an officer's shift he or she may have prevented many crimes that no one will ever be able to record as having been prevented. Those same officers may have positively changed an attitude by being helpful or friendly. I recall an adult student in a Police and Public Policy class I was presenting explain to me that she found the London police officers much more to her liking because they seemed to be much more helpful. Of course, London's "Bobbies" are seen on foot and bicycle much more frequently than in most American cities. That has always been their manner of patrol. To accomplish the same kind of citizen-to-officer close contact form of patrol in any large American has become cost prohibitive. To form a specialized unit for Community Policing has been tried in the past and those units have been closed. Why? Because they were specialized. They frequently were formed as a result of political influence outside of, and ambitions of one or more officers within, the department. They take away officers from other units and create animosities department wide. They reward some but in doing so, they penalize many. A commissioner who sits on a criminal justice commission called for just such unequal treatment. What this City can afford, particularly as the San Francisco Police Department hires more officers and comes closer to meeting its full complement, is to create an attitude among all officers of being community police officers. Effective community policing is more a state of mind than any small politically-generated unit could ever be.

Another observation I made

while reading about the increasing homicide rate in our City was the emphasis being placed on the police officers for not preventing these homicides. It sometimes seemed that the people doing the killing were not as responsible as the police officers. How can this be? Perhaps it is a reflection upon our society that we more often than I recall, refuse to accept responsibility for our own actions. There are people who refuse to cooperate with an investigation, or will lie to the officers because they don't like police officers or don't trust police officers. Whatever reason they select does not negate the damage they do by not assisting in bringing murderers to justice. Some communities have more violence than others, but police officers' jobs are to reduce that violence, along with the assistance of the community. Community policing needs the community assisting, not resisting, or conjuring up specialized units.

The Mayor has called for another committee, this one to be of the blue ribbon variety, to look into changing the culture of police work. That seems like a great place to start, but there are some facets of that culture that can be changed easier than others. When officers feel they have a greater stake in their community they are more inclined to help. When civil servants such as cops, fire fighters and teachers can't afford to live in the City, that creates at least one problem that such a committee will likely not be able to correct.

Writing all of this is probably not going to change much, as I'm pretty sure it has been written elsewhere, probably much better and yet, here we are; looking for answers – again.

POA Interview of Crime Novelist John Lescroart

Interviewed by Dennis Bianchi
POA Book Reviewer

Editor's note: The following interview took place on November 17, 2005 near Mr. Lescroart's office in Davis, California. At his request, the interview was not published until late January of 2006. The POA is grateful to Mr. Lescroart for the opportunity to sit down with this best-selling crime novelist and discuss his books, his SFPD police characters, and his craft. Soon, the entire, uncondensed interview will be available on our web site. For a complete listing of all of John Lescroart's books and music, visit his website at www.johnlescroart.com. There are also some excellent reviews of Mr. Lescroart's work found on Amazon.com. — RS

Author John Lescroart is a prolific writer of crime novels set in San Francisco. A series of those novels center on the exploits of SFPD officers and inspectors, as well as SF judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Several of Mr. Lescroart's books have made the New York Times best seller list. A few of his best-selling titles — featuring San Francisco Police Department Inspector Abe Glitzky and former cop, bartender, Assistant District Attorney and now defense lawyer Dismas Hardy — are *Hard Evidence* (1993), *Nothing but the Truth* (1999), *The Oath* (2000), *The First Law* (2003), *The Second Chair* (2004) and *The Motive* (2004). *The 13th Juror* (1994) is currently in the planning stages of being made into a movie.

Mr. Lescroart's gift of writing was greatly enhanced with his degree in English Literature from U.C. Berkeley in 1970. John laughingly refers to his overnight success as taking more than twenty-five years. He has spent years compiling an impressive resume: musician, typist, bar tender, but it is as a writer that he has made his mark, with his books being translated into sixteen different languages and published in 75 countries throughout the world.

His newest release, *The Hunt Club*, leaves Glitzky and Hardy behind as he has created a new set of fascinating characters, led by private investigator Wyatt Hunt and San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector Devin Juhle. Fortunately for us, John has stayed local and the action takes place in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Murder, mystery and the complex criminal justice system keep the action moving and the reader turning the pages.—Dennis Bianchi

Opening statements regarding how I came to interview John and a bit of my background. DB: Well, the editor of *The [POA Journal]*, Ray Shine, is an avid backpacker and was up in Yosemite, somewhere, and was hunkered down in a lightning storm and met a Mrs. John Lescroart and his daughter

and said...

JL: (Laughter) Is that how this connection started? That is wild!

DB: Yeah, and when Ray returned he asked if I knew of John Lescroart, the writer and I said, 'no' but — well I've got to be honest here John,

JL: Yeah, sure.

DB: But maybe my son has because the name sounds familiar, my son reads a lot, but I hadn't, so I picked up a book, your latest, *The Motive*, and I realized that there were a lot of characters that you had developed before somewhere, so I went back and bought *Dead Irish* and did a review of that. I liked *Dead Irish*.

JL: Good, good.

His newest release, The Hunt Club, leaves Glitzky and Hardy behind as he has created a new set of fascinating characters, led by private investigator Wyatt Hunt and San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector Devin Juhle. Fortunately for us, John has stayed local and the action takes place in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

DB: I actually preferred it to *The Motive*. My wife and I live out in the Sunset and I recognized all the spots you wrote about.

JL: Good, cool.

DB: Well, that's how this all came together.

DB: Okay. Well, to start with let's focus on you as a writer and the literary process and then move along to the police department.

JL: Okay.

DB: Who do you like to read?

JL: You know, mostly I don't read fiction anymore. I guess that's odd. I had just gotten mostly into reading non-fiction. And I like biographies, I like, you know, I read about presidents and I read about geology

DB: Bill Bryson?

JL: Bill Bryson, or I'd say kind of more, well, right now I'm reading a book about Buffalo Bill and his American Wild West Show. The last one I read was about the San Francisco earthquake, Simon Winchester, *A Crack in the Edge of the Earth*.

DB: Smith has a new one out on the

same subject.

JL: I mean I read a lot of that kind of stuff, mostly. I have a few people, in the field that I'm in, that I love. I love Nelson DeMille, I love T. Jefferson Parker. Have you read him?

DB: No. Not me.

JL: He's awesome. He's won the Edgar Award for best mystery novel two years in a row. He's quite good. Elmore Leonard. Everybody reads Leonard.

DB: Yeah, from *The 3:10 to Yuma* on.

JL: Yeah, all the way from the west-erns to the latest stuff. And then I'm a real eclectic reader. I read everything. But mostly now, as I say, I'm not reading a lot of fiction.

DB: Because your style is established?

JL: Yeah.

DB: Is there anyone you used as a guide. You've been at this twenty years now.

JL: More than that. When I started I was very much a Hemingway fan, you know, I kind of like to follow those rules of style. Not a lot of adjectives and adverbs. A little punchy and make it good, not padded.

DB: As in show don't tell?

JL: Right. I try to live by those rules. I don't know who said them but they're really what make books fun to read.

DB: Is there anyone outside the United States that influenced you?

JL: Well, I majored in the continental novel, in translation, in college, so I did all that Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, Camus, Stendahl, everybody.

DB: But in your field, like *Donna Leon*

JL: Well, the guy that I truly love the most of everybody, in fiction, is Patrick O'Brien. I mean, he's not from the United States. I've read all his books twice. I'm a nut about him. I've got all those other, you know, the books about the books, menus, the places he went. It's a whole cottage industry. The books about the books and I've got them all.

DB: The guy who writes about ships, diagramming and....

JL: Yeah, it's everything. Good stuff.

DB: I have not yet, but I will, read your very early stuff, *Son of Holmes*, *Rasputin's Revenge* but the other one seems to be out of print.

JL: Oh, you mean *Sunburn*. You can't get it.

DB: That book beat out Anne Rice's for an award!

JL: Yeah, it did, but it might come out again next year. *Signet*, my paperback house, is making noise that they will bring it out in a paperback edition. It was originally a paperback, but this would be a nice quality paperback edition.

DB: I will look for it.

JL: It's a little weird. It's different. No crime element.

DB: Well, that leads to the next question; What made you change direction to this crime, I don't want to call what you do police procedural, it has some...

JL: No, it's really not. It's a long story, quite frankly. I wrote *Sunburn*. I wrote a novel in college which is not a crime story at all, then when I got out of college I wrote *Son of Holmes*, right away, within a year of college. But I didn't submit it. I just wrote it as an exercise, you know, to teach myself to write, if I could sustain a story for a whole novel. So I did, but I didn't consider myself a mystery writer. I was familiar with the genre through Holmes and Nero Wolfe, and I kind of got that, and I knew I could write that book, with that voice. So I sat down and I wrote that book. But I didn't do anything with it. I didn't even try to get an agent for it. I just put it away. Then I was a musician for ten years and traveled the world and did all that kind of fancy stuff. But, I quite being a musician and then I said, "I'm going to write a serious novel," and I did and I sat down and wrote this very serious, you know, *Sunburn*, which is literary, it uses all three persons as the narrator and its very Hemingway-esque. It's set in Spain. So, I did that and then I couldn't get it published.

DB: Even though you won an award for it?

JL: Yeah, couldn't get it published. Four years went by and I wrote another book about rock and roll business and set it the sixties, set in San Francisco, Haight-Ashbury and all that. You know, sex, drugs and rock and roll. And that was a non-crime book, no crime element at the time.

DB: Were you living there at the time?

JL: Yeah. And then, after that I don't know what happened. I had a story in mind that I wanted to write about the Zodiac killer. I wanted to write about the idea that he had gone into retirement and came out again. So I wrote this lengthy book, 750 pages about the Zodiac killer. And the guy who happened to be impacted by him was this guy named Dismas Hardy. But, he wasn't the Dismas Hardy we know today. But he was close. The book, I don't know why, but it didn't sell, I thought it was a pretty good book. It wasn't a mystery, because there was no doubt about who the Zodiac killer was, but it was kind of this in between thing, of trying to write a really good book that had a plot, it had a very strong plot and you would want to get to the end of it. Nobody bought any of those books, the rock and roll book, the Zodiac book.

DB: Are they around?

JL: No, I don't think I have it anymore. I have the rock and roll book but with the Zodiac book I started to



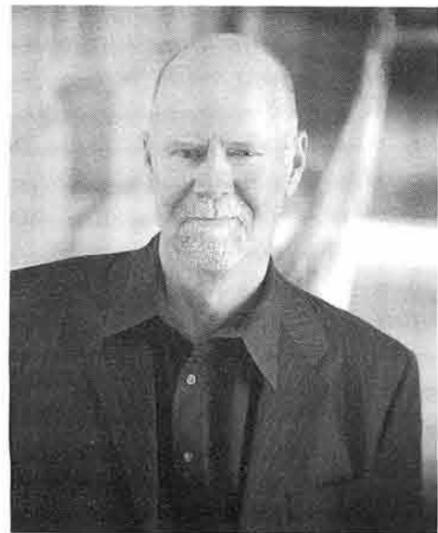
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John Lescroart

like this Dismas Hardy character, I started to like the feel of what he was all about., so I wrote most of another book, kind of about him.

DB: When you were doing the Zodiac book did you have a police contact at the time?

JL: I had Al Giannini, from the SF D.A.'s office. He's been my best friend since we were fourteen. We both went to Serra High School. We were buds. We were on the model U.N. and all that stuff. So he's been the inside scoop.

DB: But no police officers?

JL: No, but what's interesting is I got a lot of stuff right, about the Zodiac. Stuff I just made up. And Al was saying, "Wow, this is pretty amazing. How did you know this?" There were things that were not public, you know,

DB: That was a very controversial case, even the investigators on the case became controversial.

JL: Yeah, right. But I was just trying to make a living. I was starving. I was typing twelve hours a day for law firms and then writing in the morning and it wasn't any fun. So I kept looking for what would turn the key to make it earn a living doing this. And eventually I then, oh, then what happened was, I was 37 years old but I didn't want to be working day jobs anymore and I've got to be published. I said to my wife, I've got to quit my job and write a book. She said, "Why don't you send in that Son of Holmes book? I said, "That's not what I write. I'm not a mystery writer. I'm a writer.

(Laughter on both of our parts) She said, "Well, I really like that book and I think you might have a chance of getting it published." So I sent it off to New York and I got two offers on it in six weeks. Then they asked for a sequel! And I gave it to them. Then I was writing mysteries. I wrote two and then I wrote *Dead Irish* because the Holmes thing was a dead end. I knew I couldn't break any new ground with an old guy, so I resurrected, finally, the Dismas Hardy guy from the Zodiac book and finally I got who Hardy was, and the whole background, with his

dead kid and wife and stuff.

DB: What I do like is that you age him. He doesn't stay static. He goes through time, the whole group around him progresses. But you know so much about the police department, the detail, you got all that from Giannini, you didn't get it from anybody else?

JL: When I first started, I also was talking to Joe Toomey and to Nap Hendricks. When I did the early books, with Al, we would go to Sam's and I would take them to lunch and just be a fly on the wall. It usually wasn't about my books, it was about the case Al was working on and we'd go out.

DB: So, you would go with Al and he would be talking to the investigating inspectors, etc.

JL: Right. And I went to a few witness interrogations and a bunch of really kind of cool stuff. But that was early on to give me kind of a sense of how it worked.

I had Al Giannini, from the SF D.A.'s office. He's been my best friend since we were fourteen. We both went to Serra High School. We were buds. We were on the model U.N. and all that stuff. So he's been the inside scoop.

DB: Well, you got it.

JL: Yeah, I think I got it. (Mutual laughter) So, I was much more hands on in the earlier books. Now, I figure I'm drawing from what I got then. I try to keep current. Now, Al is down in Redwood City, and I don't have that kind of access anymore.

DB: What is your routine? Do you write every day, for a certain number of hours or pages? What do you do?

JL: Well, I've had to hand in a book a year for the last sixteen years, in a row.

DB: Wow!

JL: And you know the books are successful, so my publisher wants me to hand in a book on May First every year. So I do. I have the outline for the book on September first, and I do my research between September first and say Christmas. But I'm writing now. On my 2007 book I have 70 pages written.

DB: What does that work out? Do you force yourself to do what, four pages a day?

JL: When I'm in work mode, from mid-December to about May first I'm writing ten pages a day.

DB: Ten pages! That's a lot of words

JL: It blows my mind. I don't know

how I do it. Honestly, I don't know how I do it.

DB: I'm glad I'm sitting down. Amazing!

JL: I wrote *The Hunt Club*, because I had a very hard time finding the voice I wanted to use, I started *The Hunt Club* in mid-February, I mean I started it five or six times, but I never got it going. I threw away like 350 pages. I started writing the book you read on about February 15th and finished it May first. And I didn't look up.

DB: So not only do you have a lot of inspiration you have a lot of perspiration into these books.

JL: More perspiration.

DB: And you went to college at Berkeley. Why San Francisco?

JL: I grew up there, in the Peninsula. I went to school for one year at USF before I went to Berkeley and when I got out of school I got a job. I

Mission.

DB: We'll talk more later. How familiar do you think you were, when you started out, with the San Francisco Police Department?

JL: Oh, zero. Zero. I mean the first book *Dead Irish* I didn't know anything about it, other than what a layman would know.

DB: And you were tending bar at the Shamrock, on Lincoln Ave?

JL: The Shamrock, yeah. So I knew nothing and I just made up stuff. And then Al read the book when I was done and I think he made a few changes, things that just weren't right. I think, for instance: the homicide room in *Dead Irish* is not like the real homicide room at the Hall of Justice. It was cubicle, just because I thought it was and I never looked. For *The Vig*, I started getting a little more serious. *Dead Irish* got nominated for "Best Mystery Novel" by the Shamus people and so I started to think, wow, maybe I should take this more seriously. If I'm going to do it, I might as well get it right. And I didn't really think about the mystery side of things, or the procedural side, but by the time of *The Vig* I started to think, "You know, I'm starting to see where I have to go if I want to do this." So I started doing ride-alongs.

DB: Ride-alongs with Al?

JL: With Al, but also with some of the D.A. investigators and a lot of different people.

DB: So, you do have a bit of an insider's perspective?

JL: Yeah, I've been in enough witness interrogations inside places like Holly Park, you know. I've been scared, you know, and I think that's part of it.

DB: You've never been subjected to any negative stuff from the police department?

JL: No. It's all been positive.

DB: The city has changed quite a bit. Many housing projects have been torn down and changed, except for the Southeast corner of the city, which is still very rough. It's beyond comprehension. I don't get it, killing each other every day. What's the point?

JL: I know. We could extrapolate this out to the world. The last time I checked, this killing thing lasts forever. You kill somebody they stay dead.

DB: To the best of our collective knowledge, no one has come back to say different. Your stories, do they have a basis of, say, eavesdropping on actual cases?

continued on next page

worked for the phone company in San Francisco. Graveyard shift. It was fun. I worked at 666 Polk, the building with the hat on it.

DB: So it was just a matter of that's what you knew best?

JL: No, because you know, *Sunburn* is set in Spain, *Holmes* is set in Provence, France, *Raputin's Revenge* is set in St. Petersburg, Russia. They're all European cities, so when I decided I wanted to write about modern stuff I wanted a European-style city, small enough that you could get your arms around. And then it turns out that San Francisco has all that other really cool, weird stuff. It never ends.

DB: Yeah, even with the things you've covered, there's a lot more out there.

JL: Oh yeah. And when we're done here you can give me some and I'll write them down.

DB: Well, you haven't spent too much time in the Mission District. I haven't read all your books, but the Mission itself seems to be missing.

JL: I haven't done much in the

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JL: No. Generally speaking what I try to do is try to find a topic that interests me. With *Dead Irish* and *The Vig* I didn't do that. When I first wrote those books I was making no money writing. I was doing full-time other work, and I was just trying to write a story that people would want to read through until the end. I had like a little conceit. Like *The Vig*, the idea of this guy, one of the things that Al said was never a problem but I never believed he said none of these cons that he put away ever took it out on him or wanted to take it out on him. They weren't like mad at him. They didn't like come back and get him went they got out. I guess you would have to have that view if you wanted to do that job. But for example in *The Vig*, I said, I don't believe that. I'm going to have this guy come back and want to kill these two guys. You know, they put him in jail for ten years. It would piss me off.

DB: I think Al's probably right, but the State of California allows retired police officers to carry a concealed weapon for pretty much that exact reason. So you have a point. I think they often come back looking for witnesses.

JL: Al seemed to think they come back after their own defense attorney. That he said happens because they screwed up.

DB: Yeah, and it cost them money.

JL: "Hey, he took my money and didn't even keep me out of jail!" But what changed in my books, starting with *Hard Evidence*, that was the first legal thriller, when Hardy went back to the law, starting with that book I changed my style, very consciously,

When I first started, I also was talking to Joe Toomey and to Nap Hendricks. ... It usually wasn't about my books, it was about the case Al was working on and we'd go out.

I tried to write with a larger palette, and I tried to deal with bigger issues. I wasn't just trying to just solve the crime anymore. And that's what stayed. I got into the characters way more, into their families, I mean the things that I'm more or less known for now, I started doing in *Hard Evidence*.

DB: So now, you have reached the point with *Dismas* and your style and now you're going somewhere else?

JL: Well, I just gave them a break.

DB: That's it?

JL: I don't know. He's going to become the grand old man.

DB: Is there any autobiography with *Dismas* or other characters?

JL: No. Well, you know, the wife is younger and the kids, that's similar.

DB: And now, you're an established fellow and can help out others, like *Dismas* does.

JL: Yeah.

DB: I just read that you have put up money for an endowment here at Davis.

JL: Yeah, the Maurice Prize. I named it after my dad. So I'm giving \$5,000

a year prize to the best work of long fiction of a Davis graduate.

DB: You don't see you as the *Dismas* character in that largesse?

JL: No. *Dismas* is way more proactive than I am. In many ways he's a loose cannon because that makes him interesting as a character. And I'm just a straight old guy.

DB: My wife and I were recently in the wine country and of course that made me think of your new book, *The Hunt Club*. There were some great lines, such as, while tasting wines, "What are we looking for here?" "I think we're looking for red. Yeah, red." (Mutual laughter) Not only do you enjoy the writing but you took some nice shots at the so-called culture.

JL: Yeah. I like this stuff, I must say.

DB: We have an understanding that we will not release this interview until after January 24, and we won't, but let's start with *Hunt's* cohort, *Juhles*.

JL: Shawn Ryan, that's him. That story was his. You must know him.

DB: Nope, I don't know him. But in my career I was present for a couple of shoot outs and your description reads true.

JL: Ryan told me this story about getting into a shoot out with a guy with a shotgun, shot the man and got into a lot of heat for it.

DB: That also reads true. The pressures put on San Francisco police officers that other agencies have, are numerous. There's about four investigations involved in any shooting.

JL: Well, I don't know how you guys even work. If you want my real opinion, that's why this thing has so much angst among the cops, because I know the burdens that are put on you that to me are outrageous.

DB: Some cops choose not to work as it's safer, not many, but that's the downside of having that kind of environment to work in.

JL: Right!

DB: About *Juhles* partner, his name? You were serious about naming a guy *Gumqui Shiu*, or *gumshoe*, who is a detective? (Laughter)

JL: I did it on purpose and you're the only guy that's mentioned it so far. If you can't have fun with stuff, what are you going to do? (More laughter)

DB: I thought it was funny.

JL: That's what it was, a joke. I only gave the first name once and if you miss it, you miss it. My editor didn't even catch it. I mean you gotta have fun with this when you're writing ten pages a day.

DB: If you ever sat around some inspectors offices like homicide or where I worked at *Child Abuse*, you hear some awful humor, just to break the horribleness.

JL: I have heard it. With homicide guys and with Al. Gallows humor is part of my life.

DB: There's another connection between *Inspector Shiu*, a Mormon, and the bad guy in *Dead Irish* is a catholic priest. Is there some focus on the negativity of religion or religious people in your work?

JL: Well, read *Guilt* and you can read about the sex scandals ten years before they became known. There's a lot of that kind of stuff. I'm not really the most religious of people. I was raised a Catholic, but I don't really, uh, I think in the great balance of things, if you wanted to say religion has been a good or a bad thing for the human race, just look at the world today and you can make your answer.

DB: Well, as a Catholic kid growing up in Utah, we caught a lot of hell from Mormons. They stoned our bus or spit on us when we played ball. It always felt good to beat BY High.

JL: You know, when you're writing a book a year, this is not poor me, I love what I do, but the reality is you have to be constantly pushing the envelope a little bit. You have to do things that are fun and that this cop can't look like any other cop you ever read about. Asian Mormon. That's unusual

DB: Well, not in Hawaii.

JL: Hawaii, you're right. And making him so straight-laced, he's great counter-point to *Juhle*, and yet he is a bad guy.

DB: Well, there's a clue early in the book.

JL: Well, you have to put those things in. You have to be fair to your readers, but don't know why. I feel it makes a better book.

DB: So, is *The Hunt Club* going to continue after this book?

JL: Hmm, *The Hunt Club* will be the detective agency that Hardy uses. I used it in the last book, *The Motive* and I really liked that name. I called up my agent, right in the middle of the book, and asked, "Do you think *The Hunt Club* would be a good title?" And he said Oh, yeah. He called my publisher and the publisher called me at home and said, "Your next book is *The Hunt Club*. Figure it out." We can market the crap out of that.

DB: Yeah. There's plenty of characters and all kinds of growth just sitting there. Can I make a criticism of the book previous, *The Motive*.

JL: Yeah, sure.

DB: I had a really hard time with it as it went on, because, to enjoy a novel, or a movie, you have to suspend your disbelief. And having a Deputy Chief of Investigations doing all the leg work for a defense lawyer was driving me crazy.

JL: That's always been the conflict in those books.

DB: Well, it drove me crazy. I understand that since I haven't read all of your books, that *Hardy* and *Glitzky* have a long, tight relationships, but I couldn't get there.

JL: Well, the next one you want to read is *The Oath*, because you'll see how overt that conflict is. It's like they almost come to blows. They're not working together.

DB: How did *Giannini* feel about all this?

JL: That kind of goes with the territory. I made these guys best friends back when *Hardy* was a prosecutor,



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that's from Hard Evidence. And then as the books go by they're always involved – they almost never start on the same team or on the same side.

DB: I know. They can't be.

JL: But they're best friends!

DB: That happens all the time. In San Francisco, there are several former police officers who are now defense lawyers: Joe O'Sullivan, Jim Collins, and Bill Fazio was a D.A.

JL: I know Bill Fazio. He's one of my good friends.

DB: Sure, friends can be on either side of the table, or the courtroom, but having a Deputy Chief of Investigations doing legwork for a defense lawyer, I just can't imagine it.

JL: That's okay. I can accept that. I can't do anything about it, though.

DB: The Hunt Club works for me, because they're outside of the system.

JL: Oh, good. Yeah.

DB: How did you research that?

JL: Well, I talked to David Corbett, who is a private eye, and I talked to a couple of private eyes up here near Sacramento. Probably in all I talked to five or six, who have done that kind of thing. I talked to Robin Brazil, he's a cop in Sacramento, just for background, really. Not specifics, just run with what I got. I knew I wanted to have Hunt the outside the thing and Juhle being really trying to find it within the standard framework, and it worked.

DB: I think it does. You have the cop trying to keep it within the parameters of the law and...

JL: Yeah, and that's the conflict between those two guys. Juhle and Hunt go, well, I love the scene when Juhle tells Hunt, you know, they're sitting outside a mansion, and Juhle says, "What are you doing? This is cop work. Get out of here."

DB: That could happen and probably does happen frequently. Is that how Hardy will keep appearing, by using the Hunt Club?

JL: You mean in these books? You know, I never know. I'm not trying to be coy with you. It's got to be the story. The story I'm doing now is Geena Row, I don't know if you have read the books she's in, but she's in a lot of them but always a very small char-

acter, but now she's become a partner in the firm with Hardy. In this book she's going to take a murder case of a guy that's accused of killing his wife. That's the main thrust of this book. But I don't know what Hardy's going to do in it. He may not be in it at all.

That happens all the time. In San Francisco, there are several former police officers who are now defense lawyers: Joe O'Sullivan, Jim Collins, and Bill Fazio was a D.A.

DB: Give him a rest?

JL: The good news about writing The Hunt Club is it made me – it's a legitimate book in itself that I think it would make people say, hey this guy doesn't have to write about Hardy to be interesting. So I wanted to kind of get away from Hardy because he was getting a little long in the tooth. Plus, the Glitzky, Hardy thing gets to be redundant. They've done it thirteen times.

DB: Do you have any movie offers?

JL: The 13th Juror is right now, it's a twelve-year old book, but it's actually getting close. It's optioned, and I have had six options on the books but this one is, by the time you get this article into print it might be completely dead or it might have moved along the "go track." They have the actor Jim Caviezel, who did The Passion of The Christ. He's a good actor and he's looking for a less controversial, more solid leading m man role, he's read the screenplay and he likes it.

DB: How much longer on the contract for those one-a-year books?

JL: It's a three book deal I have now, and the book I'm writing now is the third book

DB: Does that kind of pressure make you better or worse?

JL: Both. I mean it's very difficult sometimes

DB: Would the success of a movie change you?

JL: That won't bother me. I was older when I got successful. I was already pretty jaded about the whole world. I didn't start making any money in this until I was forty-five. That's a long time to try to be living on beans, typing for lawyers, which is what I did.

DB: I sincerely wish you luck. A little just reward.

JL: It's all interesting. You know, the pressure is real, to come out with a new book each year is real pressure. You know you're being read, which

is what you want so you have to rise to it. You have to keep wits sharp. It's your job. Don't forget that the writing business is a business!

DB: Doing ten pages a day, I think it would be hard to keep your wits sharp. I'm still in awe of that figure.

JL: The thing that boggles my mind, this is the 18th one I'm writing, some of the ones in the middle of the series were 700 pages long, and when I look at the shelf of those books, I say, "I wrote all of those words" It's hard to believe.

DB: Do you find that it's more common among starting writers, that they write longer books?

JL: No. The book tends to be the length it wants to be.

DB: I have met some cops who want to write and the books are gaudy and over-written.

JL: Yeah, a lot of times they use a lot of words that they don't need. And they do a lot of stuff that doesn't advance the plot. That's something I think you get good at if you have published fifteen or sixteen books. "This scene is extraneous, this scene is ridiculous to have in the book." Of course, my words are sacred. (mutual laughter)

DB: That's a hard thing, isn't it?

JL: Yeah. But you've got to do it. You must do it.

DB: Yeah, and it's necessary, but if I fight to keep something it must be important, but I can be wrong about that too.

JL: That's exactly right.

DB: I don't fight as much as I used to. (Mutual laughter, again)

The rest of the interview drifted off into personal views of many different things, particularly being married and raising children. Lescroart has two children, one of whom began Harvard University this past September.

Two things were made clear by Lescroart: He appreciated all of his dealings with the SFPD and particularly with Giannini and Giannini's D.A. friends. He recalled a night he had been invited to a few drinks and dinner with several of these people who were covering and discussing the Scott Peterson trial. He referred to the evening as "magic," with the conversation filled with highly intelligent, astute legal observations and arguments.

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The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece

By Jonathan Harr

Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

In 1996 Jonathan Harr wrote *A Civil Action*, a hugely successful book about a dogged attorney who sought justice through every imaginable legal obstacle that huge corporations can bring to defend themselves. The book became a movie, and Harr's next book is only now out, but it was worth the wait. This time, however, Harr takes us along on an investigation that covers a time span of hundreds of years. Historical mystery, art history, modern techniques of investigating fraudulent works of art and the ability to date the age of antique pieces of art all combine with energetic, intelligent people to educate the reader as the reader is entertained. It's hard to find books that can do all that, but Harr has done it admirably with *The Lost Painting: The Quest for a Caravaggio Masterpiece*.

The book's main plot is that of the search for and discovering of a painting that had been missing for approximately 200 years, "The Taking of Christ," by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, who is known today simply as Caravaggio. There are many who believe that there are still yet more undiscovered Caravaggio paintings somewhere out in the world, waiting to be found. The groups are sometimes accused of having Caravaggio fever, so when this particular painting was discovered and authenticated it was cause for much to be written and even more speculation. Harr has brought a sense of the excitement that was created by giving us a real detective story, alongside some excellent biographical

snap shots of one of the world's more interesting, flamboyant, bad-boy artists. Caravaggio was a man hired by a Cardinal of the Catholic Church and yet had to flee Rome after killing a local hustler in a sword fight. His towering artistic talent was often overshadowed by his violent, brawling manners. On the detective side of the story Harr has explained several modern day techniques to examine ancient artifacts to see if they are merely copies, or if something lies beneath. At the same time he shows that slow, painstaking research, poring over written materials, interviewing people and asking the right questions are also traits important to any modern investigation, if not more so.

When discussing Caravaggio's style the word *chiaroscuro* is used extensively. It refers to the use of light and shadows by the artist to create the sense of feeling, warmth and realism. Caravaggio was also one of the first to inhabit his religious paintings with people from the street, people with dirty, bare feet, with less than perfect or saintly manners. All of these traits made him unpopular shortly after his untimely death, but they are the same assets that draw people to him today. I have had the great fortune and pleasure to view several of Caravaggio's paintings while traveling in Italy, and I had read another, larger biography of him by Peter Robb, but I certainly don't have a photographic memory of all of his paintings and found it frustrating that this book doesn't include photos of any paintings, save that seen on the cover of the book. I highly recommend that you find an art handbook of his paintings to refer to as you

read *The Lost Painting*. I have a couple and recommend something along the lines of the DK Publishing Inc.'s collection. Such a handbook might prompt you to search for more about and by Caravaggio, as well as enhancing your enjoyment of Harr's book.

So, why would readers of this newspaper be interested in reading a story about an artist who died more than four hundred years ago? What, besides the fascinating tale of detection and intrigue would have prompted this reviewer to ask you to read about the book? The answer is found in the new book by a San Francisco Police Sergeant, Peter Toshinsky, "*Blue in Black and White*," published in 2005 by the Turner Publishing Company.

At first glimpse, the book appears to be a coffee table sort of compilation. It's large and glossy, although not ornate. The cover belies what you will find inside. Inside is the use of art to convey a realistic perspective of police work on the street. It is not a glorified tour of the City, but a realistic look at its underbelly and its police department at work in that environment. It's a work of art that makes the viewer think, as good art should. It's a statement about our common humanity. Although I found the accompanying writing occasionally uneven, when Toshinsky is on, he is dead on. Accompanying a photo on page 84, of an officer attempting to deal with the problems of a Tenderloin denizen, is Toshinsky's "You can't start judging people. You don't know why they are where they are. You don't know the circumstances that brought them to this place in their lives. That could be your brother, your sister. Given a change of fortune, that could have been you. It's best if you never forget that." I wonder what the critics of the San Francisco Police Department would make of that profound statement. It's probably a sad truth that most of those critics won't read or peruse this book.

There will be some who will purchase this book to see themselves on

its pages but many of the officers are unidentified. The classic cop photo on the cover, however, is given proper and complete recognition on page 124. Officer John Centurioni's last name reflects his expression, that sense of duty that the book shows S.F.P.D. cops performing: "Centurion. The principal professional officer in the armies of ancient Rome. Officer John Centurioni, San Francisco Police Department." A quick check with a history dictionary adds that the centurion "was widely perceived as protector of the *polis*."

Toshinsky's use of strictly black and white seems to be the exactly correct medium to photograph these scenes, and lends the same sense of the above mentioned *chiaroscuro*, using light and shade to recreate work of cops on the street. I certainly don't want anyone to think I perceive Toshinsky as another Caravaggio, but he has accomplished similar good work here, with his use of the man on the rather mean streets of the City as his story; he finds how connected we are, how equally human we are. He also has done his work in such a manner that there will be many different conclusions drawn as to what is the meaning of all this. Some may find a religious or spiritual sense; others will see only the despair. Still others will see hard-working, brave people doing a very difficult job.

On January 18, the S.F. Police Officers' Association hosted a book signing of this collection and I had the opportunity to ask Pete about his use of black and white film. He explained that the real world is obviously not in black and white, that wherever we look we see color, so when a photo is but black and white the mind begins to search for a way to fill in what is missing. In other words, it does exactly what quality art should do: Make one think, make one's mind get to work.

Pete is clearly altruistic with this work. He is donating 40% of his earnings back to the S.F. Police Officers' Association, so should you buy a copy you will be giving back to the Association.

Blue in Black and White

By Kevin Martin
SFPOA Vice President

On Wednesday January 18, 2006 the P.O.A. presented Sgt. Peter Thoshinsky of Southern Station as he introduced his outstanding photo journal, *Blue in Black and White*. Pete has been working on this effort for some time and has received wonderful reviews for his portrayal of San Francisco's Finest in their selfless service to the City. Many of Pete's photos appear on the walls of the Hall of Justice as well as in the P.O.A. building.

Simply stated, in stunning black and white photos, Peter Thoshinsky combines the art of a unique visual perspective tempered with the words and musings of a veteran street cop who has seen it all.

A group of friends, peers, and well wishers joined Pete at the P.O.A. where he spoke of his book



Sgt. Peter Thoshinsky

and answered questions relating to the time and effort put into the subject. Pete then signed copies of his books and took photos with the crowd of friends.

A limited supply of Sgt. Thoshinsky's book will be on sale at the P.O.A. for a discounted price of \$35.

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Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship

The San Francisco Police Officers' Pride Alliance is proud to announce the Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship Fund. This scholarship was founded as a way to honor the memory of Officer Jon C. Cook. Officer Cook was the first gay officer to die in the line of duty in the City of San Francisco. His memory will forever be in our hearts and the hearts of all who knew him. The San Francisco Police Officers' Pride Alliance has helped to set up a scholarship fund in Officer Cook's memory. These annual scholarships will be given to selected candidates at the SFPO's Pride Alliance annual event in June of every year.

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2. GPA of 3.0 or higher
3. LGBT youth or
4. Child of LGBT Parents or
5. Child of a San Francisco Police Officer

Application must include:

1. Copy of High School Transcripts
2. Letter from teacher in senior year

Qualified candidates will be notified, and asked to submit a written essay in a chosen topic. Winning candidates will be presented the scholarships at our annual event. If you or any other qualified applicant is interested in applying for this scholarship, please contact the San Francisco Police Officer's Pride Alliance at info@sfpoprideralliance.org.

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Police Forces, Their Ranks Thin, Offer Bonuses and More

From *The New York Times*,
December 28

SEATTLE, WA – Among the depleted ranks of police departments throughout the country, it has come to this: desperate want ads offering signing bonuses to new recruits, and cops paying other cops to find new cops.

It seems nobody wants to be a police officer anymore, officials say. As a result, departments are taking a page from recruiters in sports and the corporate world. Here in King County, the most populous in the Pacific Northwest, the Sheriff's Office is trying a kind of bounty hunting: any deputy who can bring in someone who eventually becomes an officer will get a bonus of 40 hours of extra vacation time, worth up to \$1,300.

"This job used to be more enticing, and we didn't have to do a lot of marketing," said Sheriff's Deputy Jessica Cline, the chief recruiter for the King County force. "Over time, it's become less attractive. We needed to do something."

But it is a competitive world out there among police recruiters. San Diego County, for instance, has already gone King County one better. "Put a star in your future – now offering a signing bonus of up to \$5,000," goes the Web advertisement for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

In a generation's time, the job of an American police officer, previously among the most sought-after by people with little college background, has become one that in many communities now goes begging. Experts find that the life has little appeal among young people, and those who might be attracted to it are frequently lured instead by aggressive counteroffers from the military. The problem is compounded by better pay at entry-level jobs in the private sector, where employment opportunities have recently brightened.

The resulting shortage of new officers, says Elaine Deck, who tracks recruitment matters for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is the top concern among issues facing law enforcement across the country. Nearly every police department at a recent statewide meeting in California reported being at least 10 percent short of the officers it needed. The Los Angeles Police Department has about 700 officers fewer than its full complement of 10,000, says Cmdr. Kenny Garner, who oversees recruiting there.

"When I started out in the 1970's, there were lines around the block of people waiting to take the police test, and I had to sleep overnight in an elementary school to get my place," Commander Garner said. "It's not an easy sell anymore."

Similarly, the test to join King County's ranks now draws only a small fraction of the 3,000 who used to take it.

In the face of developments like those, police agencies have tried a variety of enticements.

"Walk-ins accepted for immediate testing!" says an advertisement from the Los Angeles police force, which at one point sent recruiters to Florida to troll for prospective officers among college students lying on the beach during spring break.

There, Fort Lauderdale's come-on for police academy prospects says "no maximum age," along with "up to five weeks' vacation."

The New York Police Department recently placed advertisements in newspapers in and around Buffalo, part of a broad sweep to find recruits in the economically depressed upstate region.

Many cities have raised salaries well above the rate of inflation and are offering benefits like discount mortgages. Lexington, Ky., will give new officers up to \$7,400 for a down payment on a home.

The Los Angeles police are offering \$500 to any city employee who can bring in a police recruit who makes it through the academy, and another \$500 if the prospect becomes a sworn officer. But the bonus, along with recruit inducements that include a retirement payment of \$250,000 after 20 years in addition to a pension, has yet to turn the tide.

"We're trying to cook up some other things so we can get back in the game," Commander Garner said, in a bow to the competition.

The pay in most departments remains competitive with that in other jobs that do not necessarily require a college degree. A rookie officer in Los Angeles will start at \$51,000 a year – certainly better than the starting salary for many teachers, of whom a degree is demanded. Police jobs also typically come with comfortable vacation, health care and retirement packages.

Further, most height and weight

restrictions have been thrown out at major police departments, after lawsuits challenging them on grounds of gender and race. As for strength and stamina, a recruit in King County need be able to do only 30 sit-ups in a minute and run a mile and a half in less than 14 minutes 31 seconds. "You don't have to be Superman," said Sheriff's Deputy Kurt Lange, a 14-year veteran of King County, where the vacation bonus has led deputies to start recruiting on their own, looking for friends, relatives or just casual acquaintances who might want to wear a badge.

But whatever the attractions to the job, a powerful constraint is working against them, experts say.

"The people we are now trying to

of it all we got was only one new officer out of it – and he didn't last," said Detective Robert Burrows, who does recruitment screening at the King County Sheriff's Office.

What proved to be a bidding war of sorts between King County and San Diego County broke out this year when the sheriff's office here bought radio advertisements and sent recruiters south. The selling point was that houses are cheaper in the Pacific Northwest than in Southern California.

"We sell the lifestyle, and the cost of living, less crime, the mountains," said Deputy Cline, the chief recruiter for King County. "And in turn, we're looking for diversity, for someone with good people skills, someone who can

"The people we are now trying to recruit look at life and jobs in a very different way than baby boomers do..."

recruit look at life and jobs in a very different way than baby boomers do," said Ms. Deck, of the police chiefs association. "People used to live to work. This younger generation works to live. Working late, working weekends, that's not attractive. They want to make money and retire early."

Then there is the competition from the armed services. At some military bases, commanders will not even allow police recruiters on the grounds, for fear that they will steal troops who might otherwise re-enlist, said Lt. Mike Barletta of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

King County has been sending recruiters to distant cities, where they scour job fairs, employment offices and even other police departments to find new people to wear the sheriff's uniform.

"We went to Houston, made a presentation after their roll call, spent eight days in the city, and at the end

go from a missing-child call to a bar fight."

San Diego countered by describing the Seattle area as a damp, cold outpost far from the beaches of Southern California.

"We say, 'Would you rather live in Washington State, where it's gloomy and gray, or live here with the sunshine and beaches?' "Lieutenant Barletta said. "Our biggest obstacle is housing prices. Young people can't afford to buy a home here."

To help with housing costs, San Diego started a Cop Next Door program, arranging with certain lenders to offer discount home loans to officers willing to live in less desirable neighborhoods. But the program has yet to show much promise, Lieutenant Barletta said.

"We've got all the sunshine anyone could want," he said, "but not enough officers. It's been bad for some time, but it's getting worse."

Judge Shoots Down County's Second Attempt To Obtain Identity Of Deputies Posting Comments

From *The Tampa Tribune*, January 4

TAMPA, FL – A judge has shot down a second attempt by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to get the names of deputies making anonymous postings on a law enforcement Web site.

Circuit Judge Marva Crenshaw quashed subpoenas that would have allowed the sheriff's office to identify the authors of anonymous messages left on www.leoaffairs.com. The privately run site says it's a sounding board for law enforcement officers who want to discuss their departments.

The sheriff's office filed a lawsuit in August that claims several "John Doe" deputies were posting sexist and racist messages anonymously, in violation of department policy. It seeks to prevent deputies from posting messages that violate policy.

Crenshaw said she would not prevent the deputies from posting messages but that racist and sexist messages had to be removed, which the Web site owners did.

The lawsuit also asks for help identifying the deputies so they can be disciplined. Crenshaw initially allowed the sheriff's office to issue subpoenas

that would force the owners of www.leoaffairs.com to reveal the Internet service provider addresses used by the anonymous message posters.

The Web site was not named in the suit, but attorneys for the site argued that the First Amendment protects anonymous speech and protects the site from having to reveal the addresses.

Sheriff's attorneys argued that the department's need to keep order in its ranks overrides the First Amendment.

Crenshaw agreed with Web site's attorneys and repealed the subpoenas.

Her decision comes four months after a similar ruling by Judge William Levens regarding the same Web site.

In a separate case, sheriff's attorneys argued that deputies on the site made reference to the investigation of Steve and Marlene Aisenberg's missing baby and that the information was vital. The Aisenbergs are suing the sheriff's office, alleging malicious prosecution.

In that case, Levens also ruled that the sheriff's office could not secure the names of deputies posting on the site.

With Pay Cuts For New Hires, NYPD Falls Far Short Of Recruitment Targets

From *The New York Post*,
January 10

NEW YORK, NY – The number of NYPD cadets sworn in yesterday was 25 percent below the department's target, a possible result of the new police contract that slashed the starting pay for rookies.

Mayor Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly admitted that the \$15,000 reduction in starting pay, to \$25,100, could dramatically affect future recruitment – and, eventually, the number of cops on the street.

This is the first class of cadets starting with \$15,000 less pay than the class sworn in July 2005.

Only 1,121 cadets were sworn in yesterday at Brooklyn College, instead of the targeted 1,500.

"The commissioner and I are very worried about down the road. I don't think there is any question about that. It's not going to make it easier to recruit," Bloomberg said.

Last February, NYPD figures showed that a total of 28,457 people filed for the police exam, but this year, only 19,660 have filed to take the test next month.

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Spat continues as Connecticut Police Union forms its own Honor Guard

From Greenwich Time, January 4

GREENWICH, CT – The Greenwich Police Department's union is forming its own Honor Guard, despite a plea from Chief James Walters to reform the unit he disbanded a month ago.

Walters dismissed the Honor Guard's 15 members on Dec. 5, a day after they boycotted the Board of Selectmen's swearing-in ceremony. During the ceremony, members of the police union – called the Silver Shield Association – were protesting against re-elected First Selectman Jim Lash, the police commissioner, for refusing to meet to discuss their mounting grievances with Walters.

Union President Sgt. James Bonney said he recruited the 15 ex-guardsmen for a group that would operate independently of the department, and now hopes to raise enough money to purchase new outfits, badges, patches, flags, holsters and other items so members can appear in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in March.

"I think we'll have more people attending events because they'll be more excited," Bonney said. "I don't expect that the chief will have a problem with our running our own honor guard because it won't cost him anything and that's clearly his priority now, to

save money."

Walters said yesterday that he hopes the ex-guardsmen will return to the department's unit.

"But they're certainly entitled to do that (organize their own honor guard) if they like," Walters said. "The department's Honor Guard activities were suspended back in December until further notice, as I advised at the time, and I have since sent each of the members a letter to discuss reactivation of the unit."

In that letter, dated Dec. 27, Walters said he takes "great pride" in the Honor Guard and was "greatly disappointed" by the unit's boycott of the swearing-in ceremony.

"I invite each of you to consider what has occurred and subsequently reflect on the traditions that the Honor Guard represents," Walters said in the letter. "After having done so I would hope that you recognize that using the unit for any form of protest is inappropriate. . . . I ask that any of you who would like to continue as members of the Honor Guard contact me so that we can work together to reactivate the unit."

Walters, who said he served as an Honor Guard member with the U.S. Army Military Police at West Point from 1978 to 1981, said he hopes to

meet with the ex-guardsmen later this month.

But at least one recipient of his letter, Officer Robert Brown, said he doesn't intend to rejoin the department's Honor Guard.

"What he (Walters) did was not only vindictive but it was a cost-saving device," Brown said. "He (Walters) really didn't want the Honor Guard to continue, otherwise he never would have suspended operations."

The department's Honor Guard was created in 1998 by former Chief Peter Robbins. Robbins has called for the union members, Walters and Lash to sit down behind closed doors and air their differences.

The union's grievances with Walters have prompted two votes of no confidence in the chief, and include payroll and personnel issues, as well as recent citations from the state Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Bonney has said the union needs to speak directly with Lash, Walters' boss, about the department's budget. Lash has said the union and Walters need to reach an accord on their own.

Lash was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Bonney has said the Silver Shield Association, itself a nonprofit organiza-

tion, must raise approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 per Honor Guard member to outfit its own group. Bonney declined to say how much money has been raised for the cause so far.

In establishing its own Honor Guard, the Silver Shield Association is following the example of the Stamford police department's union.

Michael Merenda, president of the Stamford Police Association, said he and fellow union members have closely followed the dismissal of Greenwich's Honor Guard. Merenda said his union's Honor Guard has been primarily self-funded since it was established in the late-1990s, though the group now receives some money from the city. Recent negotiations to make the unit entirely city-run and city-funded – in exchange for more compensatory time – fell through, Merenda said, with the news that Walters had disbanded Greenwich's Honor Guard.

The Stamford Honor Guard elected not to attend Mayor Dannel Malloy's Dec. 1 swearing-in ceremony, Merenda said, because the union is currently involved in labor disputes with the city.

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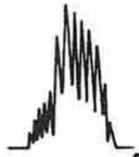


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Reaction To "Barney Fife" Comment Costs Arkansas Police Chief His Job

Tommy Smith was the Chief of Police for the City of Elkins, Arkansas. Smith attended a meeting of the Elkins City Council on April 10, 2003. During the meeting, Smith decided to inquire about proposed enforcement of the building moratorium previously imposed by the City Council.

When Smith took the floor to speak, not only as the Police Chief but as a private citizen, he prefaced his comments regarding the building moratorium by acknowledging that it might be against his self-interest to speak: "I work for the City, and I may be shooting myself in the foot." According to Smith, one of the Council members, Lacy Randall, responded by stating, "Well, Barney, if you keep your bullet in your pocket, you wouldn't be shooting yourself through the foot."

Smith became so upset as a result of this remark that he left the meeting. Shortly afterwards, he spoke to the City's mayor, Wallace Brt. Smith told the mayor that something needed to be done about Randall's remarks. Smith also made a comment about wanting to "hit the fat SOB in the nose." Another City employee at the Council meeting later reported to the mayor that he smelled the odor of alcohol on Smith's breath that night.

Four days later, Brt issued a written reprimand to Smith for drinking at a public meeting and for his unprofessional comments. A few days later, the mayor discovered that the police reports on several vehicle break-ins and thefts in a local neighborhood had not been placed in the Police Department's files. Upon learning about

the missing or incomplete reports, Brt fired Smith. Smith then filed a lawsuit against Brt, claiming that he was fired in direct retaliation for his comments made at the Council meeting about the building moratorium, and that his comments were protected by the First Amendment.

The Arkansas Supreme Court upheld the dismissal of Smith's lawsuit. The Court found that Brt's actions, taken in the course of his job, cloaked him with "qualified immunity." Under the law of "qualified immunity" in Arkansas, a public official is liable only if the actions violate a clearly established principle of law of which a reasonable person would have knowledge. The Court found that Smith failed to raise a genuine issue as to whether Brt would have known that his termina-

tion of Smith violated a clearly-established right.

The Court stressed that the record was clear that the mayor terminated Smith's employment upon discovering the reports regarding several vehicular break-ins and thefts that had not been documented. In the eyes of the Court, "the incident upon which Smith's constitutional claim is based occurred 15 days prior to the termination. Under these circumstances, Brt could not reasonably have known that his termination of Smith's employment as Police Chief would violate Smith's constitutional right to free speech."

Smith v. Brt, 2005 WL 1532426 (Ark. 2005).

Chief's Threat To Kill Police Union Representatives Is Unfair Labor Practice

To say that relations between Saginaw Township Police Chief Stephen Renico and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) were rocky in 2001 is an understatement. On September 7, 2001, Chief Renico told representatives of POAM that he had thoughts of killing them and burying their bodies where no one could find them, as was done to former Teamsters' head James Hoffa. Chief Renico then calmed down and told the POAM representatives that because they were just messengers, he would not kill them. While escorting them to the door, he balanced his hands like a scale and said, "There is a price to pay when you come in here. You have to weigh the price, to see if it is worth the price."

At a December 12, 2001 meeting, Chief Renico used profane and threatening language in stating what he would do if a grievance involving standby pay were filed. Chief Renico said that he would issue a direct order requiring employees to report to work during standby time if they filed a grievance. He made such statements as, "I'm going to give an order, a direct order, they're going to report here in uniform on stand-by. I'll pay them then. But they're going to get a

lot of folks pissed at them. Then they want to play f*** around, I'll play f*** around right back."

During a December 18, 2001 meeting, Chief Renico said that if overtime became an issue, he would limit the number of officers on vacation to one per shift. He also indicated that he would put one of the grievance proponents on a "short leash." On January 4, 2002, in response to the filing of grievances and his "short leash" statement to POAM representatives, Chief Renico issued an order requiring POAM representatives to obtain his permission before conducting POAM business during working hours.

POAM's local association president, Officer Douglas Nelson, secretly tape-recorded the conversations with Chief Renico on December 12, 2002. POAM's vice president secretly tape-recorded a meeting with the Chief on January 14, 2003.

Michigan's Employment Relations Commission found the conduct of both sides wanting. As to the Chief's statements, the Commission concluded that the statements "were threatening and coercive and interfered with the exercise of rights guaranteed under the law. Although a certain latitude is extended regarding offensive or

critical remarks made in bargaining and/or the grievance procedure, an employer cannot threaten employees or retaliate against them for pursuing a grievance."

The Commission also found POAM's surreptitious tape recording of the Chief violated the law. As the Commission put it, "there is no question that grievance meetings are an integral part of the collective bargaining process and are subject to the law's requirement of good faith bargaining. The recording of grievance meetings and other discussions impacting wages, hours, or other conditions of employment, severely inhibits the willingness of parties to express themselves and significantly impairs the bargaining process. We conclude that engaging in the secret tape recording of a grievance meeting interferes with the bargaining process and is the equivalent of

bargaining to impasse on a permissive subject."

The Commission ordered POAM to stop surreptitiously tape-recording meetings with the Chief. On the other side, the Commission ordered the City to: (1) Cease and desist from interfering with, restraining or coercing employees by threatening physical harm and telling them that there is a price to pay for filing grievances; (2) cease and desist from threatening stricter enforcement of the parties' collective bargaining agreement for filing grievances; (3) cease and desist from imposing tighter restrictions for filing grievances; and (4) insure that all employees are free to engage in lawful, concerted activity through representatives of their choice for the purpose of collective bargaining. *Saginaw Township*, 18 MPER ¶30 (Mich. ERC 2005).

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Sports



SFPD Basketball League All-Star Contest

By Damon Keeve,
TAC

On January 18th 2006, the SFPD basketball league launched its first ever mid season All-Star contest. The game featured some of the league's premier shooters, ball handlers, goons, and whiners. The theme of the day was Patrol (backbone of the department) verses Specialized units (the high priced talent of the department).

The league this year, under the guidance of Al Honnibal, is composed of ten teams. The Patrol side of the All-Star game was at least two representatives from all the district stations fielding teams in the league this year; Central-Park, Southern, Bayview, Ingleside, and Northern. The "Specialized" team consisted of members

the wonderful things fellow officers have done for him since his accident (Batch is truly grateful for the attention and help). Someone made mention that its a shame that we need an accident or unfortunate turn of events before we rally around each other. In the current environment of negative media coverage, predatory police commission, and absent leadership - we need to rally and support each other.

We need to generate our own morale and positive work environment. The game was just an opportunity to support and recognize working cops, and allow guys who don't usually play together to unite in the name of fun. The game was sponsored by a very pro-cop member of the community (Pete Glickstyrn, Mission District). Pete obtained the All-Star jerseys

each team had to be represented and every all-star had to see playing time. We had a good turn-out but missed (because of injury or extenuating circumstances) several perennial All-Stars. No game summary would be complete without a mention of these great players.

Most notably we missed the presence of probably the leagues most loved and certainly dirtiest player, Mat Hanley (the half time show was supposed to be a wire cage challenge between Hanley/Phillpott vs. Keeve/Mullins). In addition other Narc All-Stars not in attendance but not far from our hearts; Jake "I'm in range" Fagan and Brian Schaffer. Park-Central was without Eddie "crystal" Hagan and Mike "the tenor" Costello. Southern failed to send us Carl "I'm eating my way to the front court" Bryant, Eddie Chow, and Rob "Defense?" Walker. We certainly hope to see these popular stars return to action for next year contest.

The players who did make the event more than played their hearts out and provided for an exceptional and exciting game.

The Game

The contest started slowly and was dominated early by the strength of the Specialists. Weems (HSU) and Fitz (Bayview/Hollywood) battled in the post early on, and controlled the paint to keep the score down. The Specialists managed to contain the speed and shooting of the Patrol Squad, not letting the sharp shooting Guiney or Do get untracked. Ricky Guerrero (Narc) and Mark Williams (TAC) added the scoring punch, while Mike Barton (Daly City) controlled the early pace, to put the Specialized squad ahead at half, 23-15. The low score was indicative of the great defensive effort put forth, as well as guys getting a feel for



MVP Award winner Rodney Tong and Alan Honnibal each other.

The second half started with a flurry, as Patrol unleashed Do (Park-Central) and Tong (Southern) who scorched the nets from beyond the arc. The game pace picked up dramatically in the second twenty minutes and the Southern back court of Tong and Newbeck began to dominate the action. The score see-sawed back and forth as the intensity increased. Both teams pushed the action up and down relentlessly. The only break in the feverish pace was a more than occasional "whine" by Brian Guiney (Northern) who seemed frustrated with the course of the contest. The specialized crew clung to a tenuous lead with just under 3 minutes left, when Guiney miraculously over came a gentle caress from Keeve (TAC), and put back a stray offensive rebound to put his squad ahead. The basket gave Patrol a 41-40 lead with just a few minutes left. On the next three trips down the floor the Specialist failed to get a shot off, turning the ball over each time. Jerri Newbeck (Southern) converted on two crucial free throws to ice the game. The Specialized squad seemed to run out of gas right at the end, as Ken Weems (HSU) fouled out and the Specialist lacked the bench strength of Patrol.

The game MVP award was presented to Rodney Tong (Southern) who led Patrol in scoring and controlled the second half action, providing for the Patrol victory. Tong is a long time All-Star in the league and a true ambassador of comradeship and competition. Commissioner Honnibal and his organizing committee have promised a rematch next year, with an expanded format. Great job, and a "comrades comp" to all those involved.

The thin blue line was definitely straight and true on that day. Blue and True.



SFPD Basketball All-Stars

from the elite units of TAC, Narcotics, Inspectors, CHP, and our cousins from Daly City. There is a natural, but good-natured, rivalry between the two factions involved which created a healthy environment for athletic competition.

The games' idea originated in a conversation between the league Commissioner Al Honnibal and several players after a visit with injured officer Eric Batchelder. "Batch" was conversing with some of his numerous visitors one night, and made mention of all

from Mike Dunne at T&B Sports in San Rafael. Pete also supplied T-Shirts from his business for all participants, and created an MVP trophy for the games' dominant player. Al Honnibal organized the player selection, secured the location, and provided for referees. The joint effort made for a great day and fun for all.

The Players

The league has a plethora of All-Stars, who certainly deserve recognition, but in the interests of fairness,

SFPD Basketball League

By Alan Honnibal,
Academy

We are well into our season and it appears that Southern and Narcotics with their depth, are the teams to beat. Daly City, Park/Central and CHP round out the remaining strong teams which incidentally have lost close games to both top teams. Like I said in last week's column, I still believe Northern's team is in the top echelon when all of their players show up. Come playoff time which starts in

February, we'll see which team shows up.

As for the rest of the teams, they will be battling it out in the 'black n blue' division. Also, kudo's to Erik Leung of Taraval who has gotten on the bullhorn and has been able to field a small but gritty group of players to compete. Finally, for those teams that still have not paid their league fees, please pony up so that we can keep this league together. I'd hate to stop the league during the season for non-payment to the gym and refs.

SFPD Basketball Standings	
Southern	7-0
Narcotics	6-1
Daly City	5-2
Park/Cent	5-2
CHP	4-2
Tactical	2-4
Northern	2-4
Inspectors	1-5
Bayview	1-6
Tar/Ingl	0-7

NICK'S NOTES



will return next month

Guns And Hoses 5th Annual Charity Tennis Tournament

By Robin Matthews
EEO Unit

Hey, tennis fans! It's time for our 5th Annual Guns and Hoses Charity Tennis Tournament! This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 29th, 2006 at the San Francisco Tennis Club at 645 - 5th Street at Townsend. Tennis will be from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by dinner, a silent auction, and a raffle from 7:00 to 10:00 pm. The event will pair a San Francisco police officer or firefighter with a member of the San Francisco Tennis Club in a friendly, but very competitive, evening of tennis. Players will compete at their own level, so don't think you can't participate if you don't feel that you're a good player. This is a fun - emphasis on FUN - tournament, and

is a fantastic event to bring the family to. Even if you don't play tennis, come and watch and cheer on your favorite players or teams!

Funds raised by entry fees, donors, sponsors, and the sale of raffle tickets, will be divided between two very worthy organizations - the Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (BALEAF), a non-profit organization that provides assistance to the law enforcement family who have had members killed in the line of duty, have been seriously injured, or have experienced a catastrophic event (Tax ID #91-2006597), and the San Francisco Toys for Tots Program, which provides toys to needy children (Tax ID #94-2598851). A sampling of silent auction items and raffle prizes from the past have included hotel stays,

dinner certificates, Giants and 49'er tickets, sports memorabilia, wine, tennis racquets, and much, much more. Watch the *Journal* for updates on the event and items that will be part of the raffle and silent auction.

Your \$100 donation includes the entrance fee, dinner, and drinks. If you would like to join us as an observer or fan, a \$30 donation will entitle you to dinner, refreshments, and great entertainment. If you will not be able to attend the tournament, but would like to help by either making a cash donation or donating prizes for the silent auction or raffle, they would be most welcome. The more money that we are able to raise, the more that we will be able to assist BALEAF and Toys for Tots.

We also encourage businesses and

organizations to advertise their company or group by purchasing a banner for \$250 that will be placed on the tennis courts during the tournament. It's a great way to get exposure for your business or organization to this heavily attended event, and a wonderful way to support two organizations that are close to the hearts of our local law enforcement officers and firefighters.

For an application or further information, please contact Lieutenant Anna Brown or Inspector Robin Matthews in the San Francisco Police Department's EEO Unit (415-553-9261), Lieutenant Robert Lopez, Station 9, from the San Francisco Fire Department (650-344-8268) or anyone at the San Francisco Tennis Club at 777-9000. Hope to see you there!



2005 Guns and Hoses (left to right): Chief Heather Fong, Lt. Anna Brown, BALEAF President Marilyn Rosekind, Toys for Tots Chair Sally Casazza, SFFD Lt. Robert Lopez and SFFD Chief Joanne Hayes-White

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE & FIREFIGHTERS GUNS & HOSES FIFTH ANNUAL CHARITY TENNIS CHALLENGE

To benefit Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund
and S.F. Firefighters' Toy Program



Hosted by:

SAN FRANCISCO
Tennis Club

(Fifth and Brannan)

Saturday, April 29, 2006
Tennis: 4:00 - 7pm Dinner: 7:00 - 10pm

Tennis • Dinner • Raffle • Silent Auction

Player Admission/Donation: \$100 (includes tennis, food, beverages, and t-shirt)
Non-Player Admission/Donation: \$30 (includes tennis, food, and beverages)

For more information or to donate contact

Lt. Anna Brown at 415-553-1180 (SFPD); Lt. Bob Lopez at 650-315-8268 (SFFD);

Inspector Robin Matthews at 415-553-1093 (SFPD);

or Geoff Quesada at 415-587-8040 (SFFD)

Guns And Hoses Raffle Ticket Contacts

Raffle tickets for the 5th Annual Guns and Hoses Charity Tennis Tournament will be available for purchase by February 15th. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Checks can be made payable to the "Guns and Hoses Charity Tennis Tournament."

Tickets can be obtained from the following members:

Co. A	Lt. Jim Calonico	553-1180
Co. B	Lt. Mike Cleary	315-2400
Co. C	Capt. Al Pardini	671-2300
Co. D	Lt. Dan Leydon	558-5400
Co. E	Lt. Terri Barrett	614-3400
Co. F	Lt. Tim Foley	242-3000
Co. G	Lt. Miriam Pengel	666-8000
Co. H	Off. Mike Walsh	404-4000
Co. I	Lt. Dave Oberhoffer	759-3100
Co. J	Lt. Larry Minasian	345-7300
Co. K	Lt. Bob Armanino	553-1245
Investigations	Insp. Rich Quesada (DVRU)	553-9225
Airport	Lt. Rich Reyes & Lt. Bill Darr	650-821-7109
Academy	Sgt. Kirk Tomioka	401-4704
CPC	Lt. Joe Garrity	671-3120
Vice/Narcotics	Lt. Rick Parry	970-3004
FOB	Lt. Dave Lazar	553-9360



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THE LOONS NEST REPORT

Lorin Repeats as Club Champion

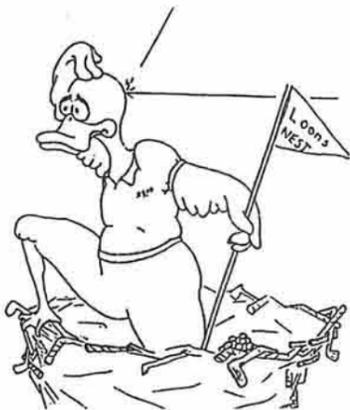
By Ed Garcia,
Central Station

On November 22nd, the Presidio Golf Club hosted the Loons Nest Golf Club's Championship for the fourth time since 1988, as sixty-four players made up the field. The weather was perfect, with blue skies and temperatures in the middle seventies. It hardly seemed like November, but not all was well. The Loons were disappointed to find the Presidio's putting greens in very poor shape, as well as poorly maintained tees and very thin turf on the fairways. The conditions took a toll on the scores, but the determined field of Loons met the challenge and a fine tournament was played.



Mike Flynn accepts award

The Loons started out from the tenth tee, playing the back nine, which measures out nearly thirteen hundred yards longer than the front side. Two-time defending champion Bruce Lorin was not intimidated by the course condition and refused to buckle to pressure. Bruce opened with an even par side of thirty-six, which included a birdie on the final hole of the nine. Hot on Bruce's heels was Armando Chang, D.D.S. Armando fired a thirty-nine, with birdies on holes number fourteen and eighteen. Making the turn in third position was



Rick Parry of Narcotics, as he fired five pars on the side and posted a score of forty strokes. Sitting in fourth place with scores of forty-one were Tom Del Torre, Northern's Scott Warnke and Ed Garcia of Central Station.

Going into the second nine, Chang faded, as he picked up two triple bogies and finished with a round of eighty-seven. Harry Pearson of Narcotics made a charge on the second nine, as he picked up a birdie on the second hole and posted a thirty-nine on the side and finished with an eighty-two. Former Champion Ed Anzore made his move with a thirty-nine on the second nine, leaving Ed with a round of eighty-one, which was matched by Ed Garcia. It was Lorin's tournament to win or lose as Bruce enjoyed a three-stroke lead at the turn. Bruce then ran into six straight holes where he failed to make par and it all came down to the last two holes. Going into the seventeenth hole of the tournament Lorin was in a dead heat with Anzore and Garcia. Lorin finished with two pars, while Anzore and Garcia both finished with a bogey and a par, as Lorin took the title of Club Champion for the third time. Garcia finished in second place and Ed Anzore took third low gross in the flight.

In first flight low net play, Dave Kranci from the Solos dominated the field with a net score of sixty-seven, leaving him three strokes ahead of George "Fitz" Brown and Rob Vernengo of Mission Station.

Second flight action saw SID's Dave Seid run away with low gross honors, as he fired an eighty-six, which included a birdie on hole number four. Dave finished seven strokes ahead of

Loons Nest Scoreboard

Lorin	80	Carrasco	97
Anzore	81	Costello	97
Garcia	81	Dudley	97
Del Torre	82	Finigan	97
Pearson	82	Mahoney, D	97
Warnke	84	Stellini	97
Vernengo	84	Wismer	97
Buscovich	85	Sweeney	98
Durham	85	Morimoto	99
Kranci	85	Fischer	100
Lee	86	Goodwin	100
Seid	86	Minner	100
Chang	87	Muselman	100
Enright	87	Newlin	100
Hanacek	87	Flynn	101
Kane	87	Crenshaw	102
Parry	88	Moses	103
Moss	88	Ospital	103
Schmolke	88	Bronfeld	104
Brown	89	Boyd	104
Pelon	89	Walsh	104
Del Suc	90	Shiroma	105
Timpano	91	Walton	105
Johnson, K	92	Boyett	106
Lum	92	Fong	105
Johnson, M	93	Pursley	106
Diodati	93	Sorgie	106
Yesitis	94	Ballard	110
Wong	95	Biggs	114
Ochoa	96	Furgus	116
Ries	96	Tapang	116

Loons Nest 2005 Season in Review

By Ed Garcia

Two-Man, Best Ball Championship
Monarch Bay G.C.
Steve Landi & Rich Goss

Spring Championship at Monterey
Blackhorse & Bayonet G.C.
Mike Cullinan

Summer Golf Classic
San Ramon Golf Club
Ed Anzore

August Shootout
Deer Ridge Country Club
Bruce Lorin

Charlie Anzore Memorial at Reno
Arrow Creek and Wolf Run
Ed Anzore

Club Championship
Presidio G.C.
Bruce Lorin

Mike Johnson of Homicide. Johnson's round of ninety-three left him one stroke ahead of third place finisher Mark Yesitis. It should be noted that Yesitis opened with a side of fifty-one strokes, but pulled his game together and fired a forty-three on the second nine, leaving him one stroke from second place.

Second Flight low net place saw new Loon Tony Carasco rip through the competition, as he fired a blistering net round of sixty-two. Burglary's Lou Bronfeld finished three behind Tony, with a net round of sixty-five and Tenderloin's Mike Flynn grabbed third low net with a sixty-eight.

The Long Drive winner was George Brown. George went off in the first group and blasted a shot of three

inches from the cup, the second closest shot of the 2005 season.

After the tournament, the Loons flew straight down to North Beach, where they gathered for the awards banquet at Caesar's Restaurant. Once again good food and the warm hospitality of Caesars made for a great finish to the championship.

2005 had been a fine year for the Loons, as we avoided rain through the year and we added four new courses to Loon history, Wolf Run, Deer Ridge, Bayonet and Blackhorse. The Loons have covered much ground and played many great events since our founding in 1987 and 2006 should continue that tradition. Please plan on being a part of that tradition.

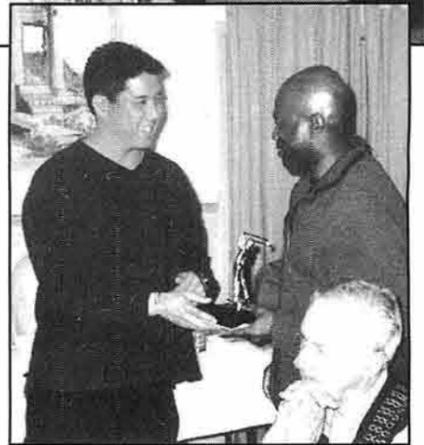


The Loons feast at Caesar's



Mike Johnson of Homicide takes the prize

hundred and eighteen yards down the 11th fairway. George set the marker at the position of his ball and the marker did not move again until picked up at the end of the day. A great shot by George! The four Close to the Hole winners were Joel Timpano, Stan Buscovich, Scott Warnke and Jim Enright. The second place winners were Paul Ospital, Mark Yesitis, Scott Biggs and Chris Muselman. The shot of the day was Jim Enright's effort on the 15th hole, a one hundred and forty-seven yard test of golf. Jim left his ball eight



George "Fitz" Brown of ING accepts award from Glenn Mar



John Wyman and Ed Anzore featured with Atlantis Resort Hostesses at Reno tournament

Letter to the Sports Editor

Dear Nick Shihadeh:

I am writing to you today to offer a suggestion on this year's upcoming softball league. I understand your concern for the safety of the players and that wooden bats would slow the speed of the ball coming off the bats, but I believe there is another way we can try this. I play in a few leagues during the year that are ASA leagues. They have been safe, fun, and competitive. I am recommending that you will adopt the ASA regulations of bats allowed and those that are not. They enforce that certain bats be banned from play. I have included a list of banned bats and we all know why they are. One we all should be aware of is the Miken Ultra 11. These bats, as you and I know, can project the ball over 120 MPH off the barrel. Unsafe for pitchers and infielders, oh yeah. ASA has a great bat standard that they have implemented for safety, and I feel that this league can use these standards. The new rule for SA bats is that no ball can be propelled off the barrel of the bat no more than 98 MPH. Is that fast? Yes. Will we be safer? Yes. Is it still dangerous? Yes, but what isn't? My opinion on using wooden bats is that we will be

going from one extreme to another. It would be like if NASCAR were to use Ford Pintos because the cars they use are too dangerous. I think we can regulate these bats somewhere in the middle. I feel that everyone likes the hit the ball long once in a while. It keeps the players coming out. And yes, if the ball is consistently leaving the yard, that is not fun. That is where the ASA bat standard comes into play.

I have played in the B Division for three years now and one thing I have noticed was a lack of player turnout. We have had three games that the other team has forfeited due to not enough players. If wooden bats are to be implemented, there might be a lack of interest to come out and play. Maybe I'm only speaking for myself or I'm just selfish, but just consider this option. You have run this league excellently since I have been playing in it. The goal is to be safe and have fun. We can have them both.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thanks for your time.

Alex Chin
Team Inspectors
Fleet Operations

Classified Ads

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FOR SALE 2005 1200 Custom Harley-Davidson Sportster, Red & Black two-tone paint. Brand NEW! Just 22 original miles. Must see to believe! Asking \$9800. Call Joe (925) 597-0206. 12/05

Automotive; Motorhome

2004 ITASCA SUNSTAR 21' MOTORHOME. 6K mi, Exc cond, sleeps 5; 201-hp, 24-valve, 2.8L V6 Volkswagen gas eng/chas, 4spd auto, frt wheel dr, 7100 BTU air cond, 2,800 watt MicroLite gen, AM/FM/CD, Magic Chef range, Samsung micro, Norcold refrig/freezer, beautiful. Pd \$59K Asking \$52K. Jennifer (650)553-4084. 12/05

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
March 2006	February 17	September 2006	August 21
April 2006	March 22	October 2006	September 18
May 2006	April 19	November 2006	October 18
June 2006	May 22	December 2006	November 20
July 2006	June 19	January 2007	December 15
August 2006	July 17		

Free Classified Advertising Available for POA Members

The POA Journal now has free classified advertising, a no-fee service available to our active and retired members. Buy, sell, or trade in the Journal and reach 5500 readers each month. The following rules apply to Classified Ads:

- To place a free classified ad, you must be an active or retired POA member.
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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.
- No member may advertise or seek services through a classified ad. Examples of services not eligible for free classified advertising are home repair, landscaping, painting, auto repair, home building, gun smithing, lessons or tutoring, travel services, mortgage services, tax preparation services, real estate services, legal services, etc.
- Classified ads can be no larger than 300 typed characters, including hyphens and spaces.
- Members who submit a free classified ad must choose to place it in one of the following categories:

1. **Automotive:** Cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV's, ATVs
2. **Law Enforcement:** Firearms, holsters, uniforms, patches, hats, T-shirts, clipboards, flashlights, etc.
3. **Real Estate:** Member owned homes, vacation rentals, time shares
4. **Home & Office:** Furniture, computers, software, fax machines, printers, telephones, kitchen appliances, hand tools, power tools, camcorders, digital cameras,
5. **Sporting Goods:** Skis, ATVs, Boats & kayaks, Gym equipment, Bicycles, Fishing gear, Hunting rifles & shotguns, binoculars, camping gear, hang-gliders
6. **Miscellaneous:** Concert and Sporting event tickets, collectibles & memorabilia, horses, dogs, ride-share/car pooling, DVDs, CDs, Videos, software

Ads must be typewritten and submitted to the POA, attn: Journal Advertising in any of the following ways:

- US Mail, to the POA office
- Interdepartmental mail, to the POA office
- Email to journal@sfpoa.org

2006 International Police Winter Games

February 26 - March 3, 2006

Heavenly Valley, South Lake Tahoe

The host hotel is the Horizon with a \$79 per night room rate. Ice Hockey events will be held at the new ice rink in South Lake Tahoe.

More information will soon be available.

Contact Bobby "Hammerhead" Malliaras

CPC/TAC (415) 671-3100 day watch

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!

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------|
| APPEAR | INSTITUTIONS | QUALITY |
| BSU | JUDICIAL | RESPOND |
| COURT | KEEP | SUPPORT |
| DEFENDER | LIABILITY | TRAINING |
| EMPLOYEE | MENTOR | UTILIZE |
| FORWARDING | NEGLIGENCE | VALUES |
| GROOMING | OPPORTUNITY | VICTORY |
| HOLD | PARTICIPATE | WELFARE |

B	D	A	S	V	F	H	J	M	P	Q	R	O	N	L	I
R	A	Y	R	O	T	C	I	V	W	T	S	X	B	Y	K
E	E	P	H	E	I	F	U	E	S	F	E	S	U	G	Q
R	C	D	P	O	V	J	R	T	C	O	U	R	T	K	B
C	N	M	R	E	E	D	H	A	Y	R	L	E	R	F	Q
T	E	Z	O	Y	A	N	G	P	T	W	A	S	O	G	I
N	G	A	T	D	D	R	B	I	I	A	V	P	P	C	E
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We Meet Them at the Depot

By Kevin Mullen
Retired SFPD

When it was reported in 1930 that gangsters being driven out of Chicago were headed west, San Francisco Police Chief William Quinn, gave explicit orders to his men. "They will be met at ferry and railroad stations and turned back," he commanded, "or, if they slip by the cordon of watching policemen, they will be clapped in jail . . . Every suspicious character, whether man or woman, must give a satisfactory account of himself or herself to the police or go behind the bars . . ."

A few years later, Chief Quinn reported: "This city today stands out among the large cities of the West as one of the few where gangsters have

joblessness, and general mistreatment by the larger society. Others add that part of the reason for high rates is that a subculture of violence has become imbedded in some parts of the African American community. But neither of those explanations address the wide difference between the rates in San Francisco and Oakland.

Part of the reason for the disparity may have to do with simple demographics. Oakland has had a very large African American middle class dating back to the nineteenth century when Pullman workers settled at the Oakland end of the transcontinental railroad. There is a class dimension to homicide incidence, after all. It is among low-income members of any group that high homicide rates can be

ing that same time span, San Francisco and Oakland homicide rates rose and fell in opposite directions like buckets in a well. Could it be that East Bay enforcement programs are currently displacing the crime back to San Francisco? If that's the case, maybe it's time to send it back.

There are doubtless other factors at work as well. San Francisco's high homicide rate is particularly troubling because, as was reported in December 2005, the last two members of 38 from the Big Block gang, thought to be responsible for much of the drug-connected homicide in the Bay View-Hunters point area, were finally brought to justice by the work of a joint city-federal task force. Yet the homicide rate still rose.

That really should come as no surprise. The cessation of Chicago's Prohibition Era "Beer Wars", during

which up to 500 gangsters killed each other, did not put an end to beer running; it just meant that territorial conflicts had been temporarily resolved. The most extensive gang violence occurs when the dominant force -- in this case the Big Block Gang-- is removed from the equation. Then, up-and-coming gangsters fight for the now-open territory. Whether that is the case here will have to be determined by someone close to the events, but the fact that it is occurring should surprise no one.

In fairness to both the police and the community, they are faced with circumstances simply not present in earlier times. Many of the current homicides involve men found dead in automobiles or in the street. The underlying suspicion in many cases is that drugs are involved.

"The Ferry Building ... was once one of the toughest beats in town. From the city's beginning, the wharves were the first beats covered, and ... a permanent police detail was established there to intercept criminals trying to enter the city."

been able to gain a foothold. Organized crime does not exist here due to a small but efficient number of hard working police officers. Not one merchant in San Francisco, large or small engaged in legitimate business, has had to pay one cent to racketeers. We watch the trains, the planes and the boats. We have a welcoming committee awaiting all such gentlemen from other parts of the United States. We meet them, we entertain them but they don't like our entertainment. They therefore seldom pay us a second visit." There doesn't seem to have been much, if any, discussion at the time of the constitutionality of such practices. And the public seems to have acquiesced.

The Ferry Building that is now home to what is perhaps the most beautiful interior shopping venue in the city was once one of the toughest beats in town. From the city's beginning, the wharves were the first beats covered, and when the Ferry Building was constructed near the turn of the twentieth century, a permanent police detail was established there to intercept criminals trying to enter the city.

In 1911, Officers Charles Castor and Thomas Finnely were slain there by just such an arriving murderer they were watching for.

What occasions this visit to the past is the recent revelation that San Francisco's African-American community suffers from almost twice the murder rate of African American Oaklanders. In San Francisco, where African-Americans comprise less than 10 percent of the 770,000 population, they make up 63 percent of the homicide victims. In Oakland, where they make up 36 percent of the 400,000 residents -- a three times greater percentage than San Francisco-- African Americans comprise 77 percent of the homicide victims. Put another way, members of the most at-risk group to be homicide victims -- young black males-- are almost twice as likely to be murdered in San Francisco as those similarly situated in Oakland.

A number of explanations have been advanced to explain high African American homicide rates generally. Most subscribe to the structural argument that the rates are caused by environmental factors like poverty,

found. It may just be that even today's middle class African Americans makes up a greater proportion of their community in Oakland than in San Francisco. In any case, there are indications that San Francisco's African American middle class is declining, thus leaving a larger proportion of less advantaged community members behind.

According to a recent report issued by the state-appointed monitor for San Francisco's public schools, Stuart Biegel, many minority families are leaving the city. School enrollment is declining at from 800 to 1000 students a year, many of whom are members of middle class minority families looking for housing they can afford. "San Francisco's African American students have the worst test scores of any African American students in any urban area of California" says Biegel. Can the same forces be at work with regard to criminal violence?

Some of the answer may lie in different enforcement strategies in force around the Bay. Tom Wolfe has a thuggish character in his *Bonfire of the Vanities* claim: "Manhattan makes it and Brooklyn takes it." He is describing the process whereby Brooklynites went to Manhattan on the subway, suddenly appeared in mid-town where they committed robberies, and then fled quickly underground again before the police could arrive.

It is no accident that William Bratton, now Los Angeles Chief of Police, but New York Police Commissioner in the 1990s when New York crime rates were brought down dramatically, previously headed up the New York Transit Police. It was police enforcement at the Brooklyn/Manhattan subway chokepoint, which helped bring about the "Guiliani Miracle," at least as it related to Manhattan.

Closer to home, when Captain Greg Corrales took command of San Francisco's Mission Police District in 2002, he noticed that 90 percent of drug arrestees in his district gave out-of-town home addresses. By the time he was assigned elsewhere in mid-2004, enforcement efforts by his officers--principally around his district's BART stations--brought that percentage down to 5 percent.

Interestingly, 2003 was the peak year for homicide in Oakland for the period from 1999 to the present. Dur-

ing which up to 500 gangsters killed each other, did not put an end to beer running; it just meant that territorial conflicts had been temporarily resolved. The most extensive gang violence occurs when the dominant force -- in this case the Big Block Gang-- is removed from the equation. Then, up-and-coming gangsters fight for the now-open territory. Whether that is the case here will have to be determined by someone close to the events, but the fact that it is occurring should surprise no one.

In fairness to both the police and the community, they are faced with circumstances simply not present in earlier times. Many of the current homicides involve men found dead in automobiles or in the street. The underlying suspicion in many cases is that drugs are involved.

"It is interesting to note that a survey of news articles about racial profiling show none in 1998 with increasing numbers annually to a peak in 2001 and 2002, about the time that homicide rates trended sharply upward again."

In times past, many if not most homicides resulted from drunken disputes in drinking establishments. It was never easy to get the facts from patrons in a saloon killing. But the proprietor, depending as he did on police regulation of his license, was less inclined to stonewall an investigation. Drug dealers have no such incentive to cooperate with the police, so the cases go unsolved.

San Francisco suffered from even higher homicide rates in the early and mid-1990s. Rates for all groups then declined so that by the century's end San Francisco had its lowest overall homicide rate since the early 1960s. The African American rate, while still higher than other groups, had declined to 37.3, less than half its current rate. And now the rates have risen again.

Many of the recent killings involve shootings from automobiles at other automobiles or at groups of people standing on the street. It would be

interesting to look at a comparison of auto stops by the police at different periods to ascertain if there is perhaps a relationship between vehicle stops and firearms taken out of the equation. We can expect that discussions about profiling will attend such an examination. It is interesting to note that a survey of news articles about racial profiling show none in 1998 with increasing numbers annually to a peak in 2001 and 2002, about the time that homicide rates trended sharply upward again.

One recent issue bearing on the subject was Bill Cosby's 2004 call for his fellow African Americans to tone down the anti-police rhetoric and to come to grips with undesirable behaviors by some of the black underclass. Cosby was roundly attacked for his stance by University of Pennsylvania professor Michael Eric Dyson and others, and since then has remained comparatively quiet, at least publicly.

What is clearly needed, then, if there is the civic will to genuinely come to grips with the problem of black-on-black homicide, is an open-ended discussion of what the issues involved really are, and then the adoption of an agenda-free program aimed at addressing the factors disclosed. The first question posed in that discussion should ask why there is such a marked disparity in homicide rates in the two communities just across the Bay from each other. And maybe it's time to revive some of the methods of an earlier time around the modern equivalent to the Ferry Building of old, the BART stations. Many of the specific methods used in the 1930s would doubtless fail to pass constitutional muster, but the principle is sound. By paying more attention to who is coming into the city and taking enforcement action where legal and appropriate, perhaps the homicide imbalance can be adjusted.

Complex problems can never be explained in terms of simple, single factors. Neither are solutions simple or singular. A number of programs are under consideration to help bring down the homicide rate. Supervisor Chris Daly announced the introduc-

tion of a charter amendment to establish a homicide prevention council of public and private officials. Mayor Newsome has shown strong personal interest in getting the problem under control. There has been much discussion about the implementation of community policing as a sort of omnibus cure-all for the problem. And a number of enforcement programs targeting high crime areas have been instituted. As yet, permanently positive results remain elusive.

Former Deputy Chief Kevin Mullen is the author of *The Toughest Gang in Town: Police Stories From Old San Francisco*. Copies may be obtained from Noir Publications 448 Ignacio Blvd. #202, Novato CA 94949. \$16.95 plus \$3.00 S&H. www.SanFranciscoHomicide.com

