

# JOURNAL

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## SAN FRANCISCO POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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www.sfpoa.org

*Moving swiftly ahead into the future — 1978*

## Are We Headed into a Promotional Time Warp?

By Gary Delagnes  
SFPOA President

I remember quite clearly patrolling the Mission District in 1978 as an eager recruit anxious to learn the profession I had chosen. My FTO pulled to the side of the road and told me he had to make a phone call. When he returned to the radio car, he told me that he had received good news. It appeared as though my FTO had discovered he was going to receive a promotion from the current Sergeant list of the day because, "Everybody on the list is going to get a job."

At the time, the last thing on my mind was the promotional opportunities in the SFPD, but being a college graduate I was compelled to ask a very simple question.

"How the hell does that work?"

He went on to extol to me why it was a good thing. As he explained things, it was a good thing because all 330 people on the list would be promoted and, even though he was near the bottom of the list, he too would get a job. I remember thinking, yeah, sure, it's a great deal for him and the rest of the bottom feeders. But what about guys like me who want to promote up in a few years. Will there be any vacancies if the entire list gets all the current and future jobs? It just didn't make a whole lot of sense.

After completing the FTO program and spending a couple of years at Central station, I did not feel quite prepared to be a supervisor in the SFPD. I had this crazy notion that you should spend at least 7 or 8 years on the job learning the trade. I thought I could someday be a more effective supervisor if I spent several years on patrol, working all shifts, and handling thousands of different calls for service before I should dare to advise other cops on how to do the job. Not a new concept, but a traditional, tried and true way to gain one's stripes or gold buzzer. It had worked for decades.

At the time, I was working the "One Car" in the Tenderloin with a great guy. He had paid his dues, served his time, and had taken the Sergeant exam. He had about 15 years in patrol at the time, and had finished in the top 30 on the list. He had virtually given up a year of his life to study, and could take solace in the fact that his hard work would soon pay off. As all of you who were in the department in 1983 recall, this exam will forever be remembered as the infamous "0-0-100 List," meaning that the first two components of the exam were thrown out and all scores "readjusted"



SFPOA President Gary Delagnes

with the questionable grading of each candidate's 10-minute oral exam. The entire written phase of the exam was disregarded because "hiring goals" (translation: quotas) had not been met. As hard as they tried, the actuaries and statisticians could not get the numbers to crunch the right way (translation: too many white males at the top of the list).

When removing the written components of the exam my very capable partner dropped out of the top 30 and into the 300s, thereby being eliminated for consideration for promotion. The experience destroyed his incentive to do the job. He was never the same. He and other displaced candidates sued, and even though they prevailed in court, there was no remedy in the ruling. It was a hollow victory. He continued to do the job, but became understandably bitter and angry right up until his retirement a few years ago. There were many similar cases in the "0-0-100" that destroyed families, friendships, and loyalties forever. If you ever wish to stir up a fuss just mention "0-0-100" to a veteran cop.

I swore I would never subject myself to the devastating experience of my friend and partner. While I took the Sergeant and Inspector exams in 1989, I didn't put a lot of effort into it. I was lucky enough to pass the Inspector exam in the top 70, and I vowed that I would never take another test. I never have.

Since that time, mostly as a member of the POA Executive Board, I have watched exam after exam elicit claims of inside information, cheating, and score manipulation. I have seen banding, reliability quotients, consent decrees, bell curves, and passing scores of 50% and below.

I have witnessed hundreds of

candidates clamor for rank order appointments only to trample over those above them at first opportunity. I have watched claims of racial discrimination, sexual discrimination, age discrimination, and reverse discrimination all in the same test. We have all become familiar with terms such as "adverse impact" and "secondary criteria."

Time after time leaders of other major police organizations ask me, "Why does the SFPOA become so involved in the promotional process when it's always a loser?"

It is a fair question. For each intervention on the part of the POA, one member is helped, and another harmed. If we are successful in lobbying the city, and the department, to go to 100 on any given promotional list, candidate at 101 wants to know why he or she didn't get a job.

If you are able to get 95 out of 100 jobs in rank order the 5 who are left behind think you sold them out. You simply cannot win. Despite all that I have seen and learned about the SFPD promotional system (or lack thereof), and my innate sense that the POA should not involve itself in a no-win legal fight with an inevitable financial black hole, I'm here now warning my members to get ready, folks, BECAUSE HERE WE GO AGAIN!

In 1998 the police department gave an exam for the rank of Assistant Inspector. 452 completed the exam and were listed on the 4-year eligible list posted on October 23, 1998.

Ultimately, over the life of the list, 282 of the first 288 candidates were either offered or given the rank of Asst. Inspector (Q-35). Of the six that did not receive jobs it is speculated,

though never confirmed, that 4 were most likely passed over because of light duty restrictions, and 2 were passed over either due to pending or past discipline.

While all of six candidates may or may not have a legitimate complaint, it is most certainly not the first time or the last, that we will see candidates passed over on a promotional list without ever receiving a plausible explanation, truly a major drawback of all promotional exams. With apologies to the 6 that were passed over, one would conclude in a rational thought process that 282 out of 452 candidates is most certainly an acceptable number from any promotional list as over 62% of the list was in fact promoted. Starting at 289 through 452 the total scores ranged from 681 (68.1%) to 430 (43%).

While the POA has always believed in promoting as many officers as we can in rank order, a strong case can also be made that a score of 68% does not merit a promotion.

Our old friends, the Public Advocates, have returned to the scene of the crime and made a presentation to the Civil Service Commission that contends that the 1998 list is still active and the remaining people on that list should be eligible for appointment until another Inspector exam is administered.

As a result, the Public Advocates, on behalf of the OFJ, argue that the most recently appointed Q-50s who were assigned to the Inspector Bureau be reverted to their original rank, or rotated to FOB, which would put us approximately 67 sergeants over the available requisitions and in the pro-

continued on page 4

### Lone Deputy cut down by parolee gunfire

#### **POA Mourns Death of Yolo County Deputy Sheriff**

On Father's, June 15, 2008, Deputy Jose Antonio Diaz of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department was shot and critically wounded by a parolee near the small town of Dunnigan, California. The injured deputy succumbed a few hours later at the UC Davis Medical Center. Deputy Diaz was 37.

The men and women of the San Francisco Police Officers Association extend condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of Deputy Diaz.

Deputy Diaz was a 10-year veteran of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department. He leaves behind a fiancé and three daughters ages 2, 4, and 16 years. The Yolo County Deputy Sheriff's Association has established a trust account for the children. Donations can be made to the following address:

- "Tony Diaz Memorial Fund", sponsored by the Yolo County Deputy Sheriff's Association:  
Bank of America – Woodland Branch  
50 West Main Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

# POA General Membership Meeting, June 18, 2008\*

*Note: Secretary Montoya was not able to be present for the entire meeting. President Delagnes requested that Editor Shine take the minutes of the meeting.*

1. Call to order by Sergeant-at-Arms Breen at 1207 hours.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant-at-Arms Breen.
3. Roll call by Secretary Montoya.
4. President Delagnes discussed the advantages to our members generated by the recent passage of Proposition B.
5. President Delagnes and General Counsel Tennant apprised the members regarding recent talks held with the SFPD administration about implementation of the DROP.
6. President Delagnes apprised the members regarding a recent Civil Service advisory that may stall promotions to the rank of Sergeant. Public Advocates on behalf of the Officers For Justice brought the issue before the Commission. A second meeting on this issue is scheduled for August 2008. Delagnes and others will monitor the developments.
7. President Delagnes and General Counsel Tennant discussed the most recent requests from the Mayor's office to reopen the MOU in an effort to balance the city budget.
8. President Delagnes and General Counsel Tennant discussed the up-coming general membership vote to change the POA by-laws. Delagnes reminded all members that the proposed changes are posted on the POA web site in the Members Only section.
9. President Delagnes apologized to the rep's and members of Co. E regarding an accusatory email he sent to the company in response to an anonymous posting on one of the station white boards.
10. President Delagnes requested amendments or corrections to the May minutes. Hearing none he asked for a motion to move the minutes into the record. That motion was made by Flaherty, seconded by Dorgan to accept the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
11. Treasurer Halloran presented each representative with a copy of the monthly financial statement. No questions or discussion followed.
12. Treasurer Halloran advised the members that the annual audit was complete and that the report of that audit will be disseminated at the July meeting.

13. Representative Chapman initiated a discussion regarding Airport members being prohibited from working 10-B and SPOT details in the city. Delagnes and Breen will pursue the issue with SFPD administration.
14. Representative Dorgan initiated a discussion regarding the "Mirandizing" of Co. E members while being questioned in a death case.
15. Treasurer Halloran apprised the members of the most recent financial requests.
16. President Delagnes advised the members that the POA Candidates Night is scheduled for July 14, 2008 at the POA. He encouraged presence and participation by as many members as possible, as

this will be a critical election that will determine the make up of the Board of Supervisors for the next four years.

17. President Delagnes briefly discussed the newest police commissioner nominated by Mayor Newsom. His name is Dave Onyk.
18. President Delagnes adjourned the meeting at 1404 hours.

*\*These minutes will not be adopted by the Board of Directors until the next General Membership meeting. Corrections and amendments might be made prior to a vote to enter the minutes into the permanent record. All corrections and/or amendments will be published in the succeeding issue of the Journal.*

### POA Journal Deadlines

To appear in...	The deadline is ...
August 2008	July 18, 2008
September 2008	August 18, 2008
October 2008	September 15, 2008
November 2008	October 20, 2008
December 2008	November 14, 2008

### Board of Directors Meeting Roll Call Wednesday, June 18, 2008

President	Gary Delagnes	P	Co. G	Sean O'Leary	P
Vice President	Kevin Martin	P		Dominic Yin	E
Secretary	Tony Montoya	P	Co. H	Maris Goldsborough	P
Treasurer	Marty Halloran	P		Mike Walsh	P
Sergeant-At-Arms	Chris Breen	P	Co. I	Tessa Donati	E
				Jody Kato	E
Editor	Ray Shine	P	Co. J	Kevin Lyons	E
				Brian Philpott	P
Co. A	Ed Browne	P	Co. K	Matt Gardner	P
	George Rosko	P		Corrado Petruzella	P
Co. B	Larry Bertrand	P	Hdqtr.	Dennis Callaghan	P
	Bill Roualdes	P		Bob Mammone	P
Co. C	George Ferraez	P	Narcotics	Dave Falzon	E
	Liam Frost	P		Larry Mack	P
Co. D	Martin Covarrubias	E	Tactical	Dan Laval	E
	Nate Steger	E		Mark Madsen	E
Co. E	Dermot Dorgan	P	Invest.	Joseph Engler	P
	Tim Flaherty	P		Dean Taylor	P
Co. F	Patrick Burke	P	Airport	Bob Chapman	P
	Peter Dacre	P		Joe Finigan	P
			SRO	John Scully	E
			Retired	Ray Allen	P

### San Francisco Police Officers Association Editorial Policy

The *POA Journal* and the POA web site ([www.sfpoa.org](http://www.sfpoa.org)) are the official publications of the San Francisco Police Officers Association and are published to express the policies, ideals, and accomplishments of the Association. The following provisions that are specific to the publication of the *POA Journal* shall also be applicable to publication of material on the POA web site to any extent that is practical. Publication of material in the *POA Journal* or on the POA web site does not necessarily include publication on or in both instruments of communication. Nor does the following editorial policy for the *POA Journal* preclude a different or contrary editorial policy for the POA web site.

#### Member Opinions and Commentary: Unsolicited Written Material

A member or group of members may submit **unsolicited written material** to the *POA Journal* that expresses his/her/their opinion(s) and concerns within the following limitations and guidelines:

- Such material must be addressed as a letter or mail using common salutations such as "Dear POA," "Editor," "SFPOA" "Dear POA Members" etc.
- Such material must be authored and signed by the member(s) making the submission. Anonymous submissions will not be published.
- Such material must be factually correct and presented in a respectful and civil manner.
- Such material can not be slanderous, unnecessarily inflammatory, sexist, racist, or otherwise offensive, nor can it be disparaging of any member or bring upon them unwarranted accusation or rebuke, either express or implied.
- Such material can be forwarded to the editor by electronic mail, US Mail, inter-departmental mail or other written communication, or delivered in person to the editor or to any person in the POA office.
- Upon receipt of such material, the editor shall cause it to be published in the next regular printing of the *POA Journal*, or in a future issue designated by the submitting member provided that the content complies with all the provisions of this policy. Such material will not necessarily appear in more than one issue of the *POA Journal*.
- Such material will be published in a designated section that shall be clearly titled as "Letters to the Editor," "Letters to the Journal," "Mail" or other similar title indicating that the material included therein is the express opinion of the author(s) and not necessarily that of the SFPOA or any of its elected or appointed officers.
- Depending upon considerations of timeliness and space, the editor reserves the right to withhold publication of such material for as many as two issues. The editor also reserves the right to decline to publish material beyond a date wherein the context of the material is no longer timely.
- All such material is subject to editing for grammar and punctuation. Portions of a submission may be omitted for considerations of space so long as the general context of the material is not significantly diminished or altered.
- The editor may select portions of a submission to be highlighted in a common editorial manner such as pull quotes, sub-heads, or kickers.

#### Other Submitted Material

All other written, photographic, or graphic material must be:

- Specifically solicited by the editor;
- Or be unsolicited material that may be published at the discretion of the editor, and in accordance with other applicable sections of this editorial policy and Article XI, Section 8(e) of the by-laws.

### The San Francisco Police Officers Association

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

- Address letters to the Editor's Mail Box, 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 via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word.

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*Counsel's Corner*

# Don't Play Politics with Public Safety

By John Tennant  
SFPOA Counsel

When police officers and firefighters worked together nearly thirty years ago to achieve binding interest arbitration in San Jose, their message to the voters was simple and to the point: Don't play politics with public safety. In other words, impasse at the bargaining table over wages and benefits for the employees charged with keeping the public safe was (and is) too critical an event to be left to the vagaries of politics. The voting public wholeheartedly agreed, not just in San Jose but in San Francisco and other jurisdictions where interest arbitration was promptly written into law.

That sage piece of advice — Don't play politics with public safety — is a message California's elected leaders need to hear today more than ever. In a time of economic uncertainty, the last thing any leader should be doing is using public safety wages as a football in the game of scoring political points against the public safety officers' labor unions — the organizations that necessarily and proudly shoulder the burden of ensuring equitable compensation for their members.

That game is regrettably being played today, as local agencies struggle to close their budget gaps while at the

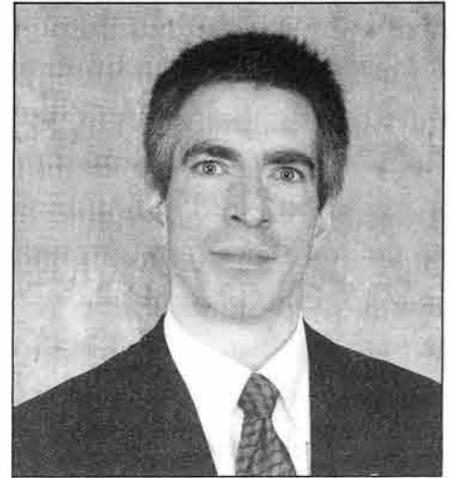
same time confronting the nationwide crisis in police officer recruitment. In San Jose, Mayor Chuck Reed shamelessly proclaims that the SJPOA's effort to negotiate more competitive wages for rank-and-file police officers actually stands in the way of the City's hiring more police officers. Similarly in San Francisco, City officials seeking givebacks from the current labor contract have argued that future recruit classes will have to be cut if the SFPOA is unwilling to play ball. This sort of rhetoric is "playing politics with public safety" at its most blatant.

## *Skimping on wages and benefits is the blueprint for how not to handle a recruiting problem.*

Skimping on wages and benefits is the blueprint for how not to handle a recruiting problem. It defies imagination that a man like Chuck Reed, who based much of his mayoral campaign on his private-sector experience and real-world business acumen, cannot grasp this fundamental of labor market economics. I remember many years ago how one of the prior law firms I

worked for in my then-fledgling legal career, when confronted with economic downturn, stoutly refused to compromise on the issue of junior lawyer compensation, recognizing that an inability to remain competitive in the relevant labor market would mean a race to the bottom in lawyer quality and potentially prove the undoing of the firm. Law firm management committees in the most competitive firms across the country engage in the same calculus everyday in today's challenging economic climate and routinely reach the same conclusion.

In San Francisco, despite the ominous rhetoric from some about cutting recruit classes, Mayor Gavin Newsom was unapologetic in his recent budget address about the level of police wages. His words bear repeating at length: "We have a 338 million dollar deficit . . . for a lot of different reasons. Some would say it's because of all those big fat city employee contracts. And that just makes you feel good because . . . now I can go to sleep and say, 'Boy, how outrageous and inappropriate that is that those police officers got that raise.' Until you actually do your homework and actually look and pause and say I'm going to be a more responsible arbiter of the facts. And I'm going to compare why it is that police got paid more in their last contract, and I'm going to say 'Well, I'm



SFPOA Counsel John Tennant

aware of why we're having a recruiting problem for police officers because they're all retiring around the same time, all the folks that came into law enforcement after coming out of Viet Nam.' And they're all retiring in every city across this country — not just this state and this region, and they're all recruiting."

Mayor Newsom hit the proverbial nail on the head. One hopes that the truth reflected in his budget address disseminates not just to those officials in San Francisco who would seek to "play politics with public safety" but further south, down to Mayor Newsom's counterpart in San Jose, whose recent attempts at pitting the SJPOA against the public interest are misguided at best and irresponsible at worst.

"Roll the Union On . . ."

## 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](mailto: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	Larry Barsetti (415) 566-5985 <a href="mailto:larry175@ix.netcom.com">larry175@ix.netcom.com</a>
Meeting, Widows & Orphans Aid Association	Ingleside Police Station, Community Rm	Second Tues. of Every Month, 2:00 PM	Mark Hurley (415) 681-3660
Meeting, American Legion SF Police-Fire Post	Old POA Building 510-7th Street, SF	Second Tues. of Every Month, 6:00 PM	Rene Laprevotte <a href="mailto:rlaprevotte@comcast.net">rlaprevotte@comcast.net</a>
POA General Membership Meeting	POA Building	Third Wed. of Every Month, Noon	POA Office (415) 861-5060
Meeting, Retired Employees of CCSF	Irish Cultural Center	Second Wed. of Every Month, 11:00 AM	(415) 681-5949
Retiree Range Re-qualification	SFPD Pistol Range	First Fri. of each Month, 0730ñ1130	Range Staff (415) 587-2274

### Specially Scheduled Events

Law Enforcement Appreciation Night Giants v Washington Nationals	AT&T Park, San Francisco	Wednesday, July 23, 2008 7:15 PM Tickets \$25	POA Office (415) 861-5060
Law Enforcement Emerald Society Golf Tournament	Lake Merced Golf Club	Monday, August 18, 2008; Noon Shotgun \$195	Brian Philpott (415) 793-4558

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# Inspector Of The Month



Inspector Sidney Laws is a well respected and highly dedicated investigator currently assigned to the Sexual Assault Detail. Her most recent aggressive investigative pursuit of two violent felons directly led to timely arrests in two separate violent sexual assault cases. Working on the cases virtually non-stop, Inspector Laws obtained the necessary warrants to apprehend and prevent them from committing further vicious attacks. Through her dedication and perseverance, the victims were given relative peace of mind and two more violent criminals are behind bars. Congratulations for a job well done.

## Promotional Time Warp

continued from page 1

cess kill all future appointments from the current Q-50 list, which still has 497 active candidates. The 53rd candidate, who hypothetically would be the next appointment, and received a score of 92% on the exam, would most likely never be promoted under the Public Advocates scheme.

Their solution would be to fill all open positions in the Bureau (Approximately 90 or so) with candidates from

a 10-year-old list, all but 6 of those candidates finished in the bottom 38% percentile of that exam with scores ranging from 43% to 68%.

The Civil Service Commission will reconvene on August 13th to rule yet again on an exam process that has pitted member against member. Despite all the reasons why we should not get involved in the promotional process, we will be there to offer what we can to the esteemed commission.

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## WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' AID ASSOCIATION

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June 10, 2008

The regular meeting of the Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association of the San Francisco Police Department was called to order by President Dave Fontana at 3:10 PM in the Conference Room of Ingleside Station.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by President Dave Fontana.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:** Present were President Dave Fontana, Vice President Joe Garrity, Treasurer Jim Sturken, Secretary Mark Hurley, and Trustee Bob Mattox. All other Trustees were excused: Bill Gay, Matt Gardner, John Centurioni and Mark McDonough. Also present were Past Presidents Ray Crosat and Mike Kemmitt.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING:** Motion by Mattox, seconded by Kemmitt that the minutes be approved as published. Motion carried.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Donations made in memory of Robert Shepherd. Norman and Rose Hawkins \$150; John and Kathy Portoni \$50; Bill Wakefield \$25; Tom and Bonnie Sullivan \$50. Thank you note from Mary Ann Shepherd for assistance given her in matters of her Husband's death.

**We Had Two Deaths This Past Month:**

**ROBERT GENE SHEPHERD,** 58 years. Bob was born in Pueblo, Colorado. His family moved to the Bay Area and settled in San Bruno. Bob attended Cappuccino High School and served his country in the US Coast Guard. He worked as a garage foreman before he entered the Police Academy in 1967. His first assignment was Central Station. In 1980, he made Sergeant and was transferred to Operations. He was appointed Inspector in 1982. He worked General Works for six years before going to Robbery. Bob finished his career in Robbery and retired in 1992. Bob was awarded three Bronze Medals of Valor. One was for the apprehension of two armed robbery suspects who just held up a grocery store. Another was for the capture of an armed robbery suspect who fatally wounded a security guard. The last for the capture of a crazed gunman who fired at a victim for no reason, and threaten police officers and him

before he was rushed and dropped the weapon. Bob also received numerous Captain's Comp's during his career.

**RICHARD DEANE ABBEY,** 81 years. Dick was born in San Francisco. He grew up in the Sunset and attended Poly High School. He left school early to join the Merchant Marines and sailed for a while before he joined the Army to serve his country during WWII. Upon his discharge, he returned to San Francisco and worked as a cable splicer for PG&E. He entered the Police Academy in 1956. His first assignment was Central Station. Next was Taraval, then Potrero Stations. In 1964, he went to Co. K, AIB. In 1973, he made Sergeant and was assigned to Park station. He retired in 1982. He received several Captain's Comp's and a Bronze Medal of Valor for his effort in the arrest of a suspect who shot and killed a security guard.

**SUSPENSIONS:** Pursuant to Article III, Section 3 of the By-laws. (Did not complete probationary period) Antonio Austin. President Fontana so ordered.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jim Sturken, after many years of service to the Widows' and Orphans' Aid Association — as Trustee, President and the last ten years as Treasurer — resigned his post. He will be moving to San Diego in a few weeks. Jim did a tremendous job over the years, and served the membership well. He was given a big thank you from the officers and trustees. President Fontana appointed Lieutenant Joe Reilly to serve out Jim's term.

**REPORT OF TRUSTEES:** The meeting was held at Wells Fargo Bank at 5 PM. Shane Hiller and Jerome Paolini gave a report on our account. With oil, food, financial and housing concerns all over the country, we are up slightly in our account over the past month. We will continue to stay the course and stay with our asset allocation for the near future. However, we will be looking at some of our financial holdings and real estate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Fontana had a moment of silence for our departed members and also for members of the Armed forces serving their country. He set the next meeting for 1:45 PM July 8, 2008 in the conference room of Ingleside Station. Meeting adjourned at 3:45PM

Fraternally,  
Mark Hurley,  
Secretary.

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# AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

By Al Casciato



**M**elissa Casciato and Matthew Roybal, both former 911 dispatchers, were married on June 7. Father-of-the-bride, Al Casciato, is still recovering, and his column will return next month.

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

## Candidates Night At The POA

Monday, July 14th, 2008

5:00pm to 10:00pm

SFPOA Building  
800 Bryant St. 3rd. floor

Join us on the evening of July 14th. for our candidates night. We will be interviewing over 20 people who have declared their candidacy for Supervisor. They will be asked a series of questions regarding their position on police issues as well as telling us their vision for San Francisco.

A panel from the SFPOA will be asking the questions and all members, as well as the public, are invited to attend.

This is your opportunity to hear what the candidates have to say on our disciplinary process, OCC, the police commission, and other issues vitally important to our membership.

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## THIS & THAT...

By Kevin Martin  
SFPOA Vice President

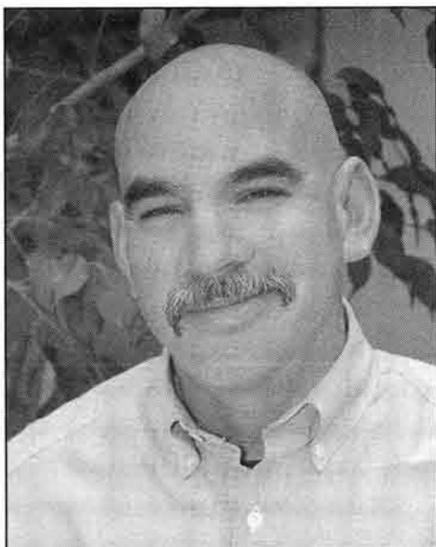
A group of very special children at UCSF Medical Center received a visit this past June 11th when "some of our own" outstanding members from Park Station made the POA's monthly visit to the hospital's Child Life Unit. Two visits were made, one in the afternoon, and one later that evening.

Officers Ed "Big Country" Hunt, William "the future #24" Elieff, Craig Leong, and Elizabeth Prillinger made the afternoon visit. They spent a couple of hours with younger children and joined them in some of their school activities and also visited with some patients who were unable to get out of their beds but who wanted to participate in the afternoon's festivities.

Later that same evening, I was joined by Officers Jason Gallagher (son of Northern Station's John Gallagher), Monica McDonald, (a recent POA Medal of Honor award winner), France Conceicao, and "The Great" Mike Palma who spent time visiting with patients in the teen lounge. These officers played video games, foosball, joined in art projects, assisted in computer re-



Officers from Park and Northern Stations visited with children at UCSF Medical Center on June 11.



SFPOA Vice President Kevin Martin

search, and generally showed the teens a great time. The time went by fast, and all who participated had a really great time. One of the teen patients and I were soundly trounced in foosball by Mike Palma and Monica MacDonald, who I believe were actually "ringers" and at one time played foosball professionally. Monica later helped one of the teens in downloading guitar chords and guitar charts from a computer.

A wonderful time was had by all as usual and the highlight for me was when each of the visited patients received a ski cap with the POA logo embroidered on the front of it. The caps were the idea and design of our own Steve Johnson who thought the distribution of the caps would be a great public relations tool for the POA, but more importantly an aid for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment which among other common side affects is the loss of hair.

I would like to thank Park Station Rep's Peter Dacre and Patrick "Paddy" Burke, as well as Sgt. Walt Cuddy, for signing up the above named officers. I also want to once again thank all the outstanding above listed officers who gave of their time and themselves to make life better for even just a couple of hours for some wonderful and deserving youngsters. The involved officers told me they had a great time and to a person assured me that given the opportunity, they would be only too happy to once again make the UCSF visit.

### Outstanding Athletes ...

Congratulations to Garrett Biel, (son of Lt. Mike Biel of the Auto Detail) and members of the Diablo Football Club "Black Pearl 90's" for their tremendous success in the Western Regional Soccer Championships played in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Garrett's team is part of the United States Youth Soccer Association under 17 years of age division. The team that is currently ranked number one in the nation for its division defeated the "Surf Club Rage" of Southern California 2-1 that propelled the team into the National Championship finals in Little Rock, Arkansas. Garrett, who plays center-midfielder, broke a 1-1 tie after regulation play with a penalty kick to secure the win. Through the tournament, Garrett also scored one goal and added two assists towards his team's success.

The POA Community Service Committee donated money for the team and we congratulate both Garrett and his teammates on doing an outstanding job. We also wish the team the best of good fortune in their National Championship quest.

Mike has told me that several colleges and universities have scouted Garrett and that the University of

Notre Dame is among them. How great that would be.

Mike's older son, Matthew is quite the athlete himself. Mike will soon be traveling to The Qwest Center in Omaha, Nebraska for the Olympic Trials for the 2008 Olympic Games to be held later this summer in Beijing, China. Matthew, a senior at the University of Arizona has quite a resume as a swimmer. He was recently a member of the 2008 NCAA National Championship Swimming Team at the University of Arizona where he swam in the 500 and 1650-yard freestyle events. Matthew placed first in his events in meets against University of Southern California, Stanford, Cal, Washington, Arizona State and Northwestern and is ranked among the top ten in the country for the 1500 freestyle event.

Matthew also qualified for the 2004 Olympic Trials in the 1500-meter freestyle event.

The Police Officers Association wishes Matthew all the best in his quest to represent the United States of America in this summer's Olympic Games. After talking to Mike, there is no doubt that he is extremely proud of his sons' athletic and academic accomplishments.

### Retirements...

Congratulations to Captain Marsha Ashe of the Juvenile/Missing Persons Detail on her recent retirement from the department this past June 13th. Marsha was honored by her family, friends and colleagues at an event held at the Flower Mart on Thursday, June 12th. Captain Ashe served the department in a variety of assignments in the department throughout her career and will be missed.

Congratulations as well go out to Sgt. Dan Linehan who also recently retired from the department as a Sgt. serving the men and women at Northern Station. A grand affair was held in Dan's honor at the Italian Athletic Club on Stockton Street on Wednesday, June 18th where Dan was surrounded by his loving family, friends, colleagues and former members of the department who worked with and for Dan who served in a variety of assignments and details throughout his storied career. Dan was also honored by Captain Al Casciato, current Commanding Officer of Northern Station, and by longtime friend and co-worker Sgt. Bob Johnston of the Hondas.

Dan served the membership for many years as a POA Representative at Southern Police Station (two terms) as well as Secretary and Treasurer of the POA during the 1980s. Dan was most responsible for our members attaining time and a half overtime compensation through a City and County Charter Amendment for our members during his tenure. Dan will always be known as one to stand up for cops in any given situation and never to back down from an adverse situation. I first met Dan when I was a member of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department and he was defending members of the SFPD in OCC investigations. In my mind as well as in many other cop's minds, Dan will forever be regarded as a cop's cop and I am proud to have the privilege and opportunity to call Dan a friend.

May God bless Dan, Marsha and all our department retirees safe and in great health for many, many years to come.

### Keynote Speaker...

Inspector Matthew Krinsky of the Auto Detail has been chosen to be the "Keynote Speaker" for the "Continu-

ing Challenge Symposium" to be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 in Sacramento, California. The "Continuing Challenge Symposium" which was founded in 2000 is concerned with Hazardous Materials concerns as well as concerns involving terrorism and counter-terrorism. The symposium is an international event with representatives from all over the world attending.

Matt's honor of being the keynote speaker is quite an accomplishment both personally and professionally. Congratulations, Matt. The POA is very proud of you and we are honored to have you represent our interests in this very important matter.

I will have more about Matt and this event in a future edition of The Journal.

### In Memory...

My good friend Neil Cunningham of Southern Station passed along a note to me reminding me that June 19, 2008 marked the 38th anniversary of the tragic and brutal ambush murder of one of our own, Officer Richard Radetich #703 who was gunned down by some cowardly thugs on Friday, June 19, 1970 at approximately 0525 hours while seated in his marked patrol vehicle in front of 623 Waller St. (SFPD Case # 70-768550). Officer Radetich was survived by his wife and 8-month old daughter at the time of his senseless and untimely death.

On January 23, 2007, the Office of the Mayor of San Francisco authorized a \$100,000.00 reward for the arrest and successful prosecution of Officer Radetich's cold blooded killer(s).

Anyone with any information regarding this tragic case can contact The Phoenix Task Force office through Inspector Jeffrey Clark at 558-2593.

It should be noted that Officer Radetich's sister, Jo-Ellen Radetich is an outstanding member of the Board of Director's for BALEAF, (Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund) and does tremendous work for that wonderful organization.

### Put up your dukes...

On Friday, July 18, 2008, "one of our own", Bryan Lujan, will participate in the "Gladiator Challenge" which will be held at Kezar Pavillion. The "Gladiator Challenge" is presented by Full Contact Promotions that is operated in part by former SFPD Deputy Chief Richie Cairns. The event is slated to start at 8 pm with the doors opening at 6 pm. Tickets for this event can be purchased on line through [www.gladiatorchallenge.com](http://www.gladiatorchallenge.com) or through the POA starting on Wednesday, June 25th. It would be great to see a large cheering section supporting Bryan who has participated in this event before and has been training very hard for his upcoming match. Good luck Bryan, we wish you the best!

### Take me out to the ballgame...

Please join us on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 7:10 pm when the San Francisco Giants take on the Washington Nationals at AT&T Park as part of Law Enforcement Appreciation Night. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund and the California Peace Officers Memorial Fund. Pre-game home plate ceremonies will include a tribute to Northern California Police Officers who have been killed in the line of duty representing the California Highway Patrol, Sacramento Sheriff's Dept., East Palo Alto Police Department, Ripon Police Department, Oakland Police Department,



Retiree Dan Linehan addresses the guests gathered in his honor.

Pittsburg Police Department and the San Francisco Police Department.

As in the recent past, one of the real highlights of the evening will be the singing of The National Anthem by one of our own, Sgt. Jerry D'Arcy of the Tenderloin Police Station. Anyone who has ever had the opportunity and pleasure of hearing Jerry sing knows that he has a wonderful voice and his rendition of our National Anthem is a real treat to behold.

Tickets for this event are \$25.00 and can be purchased via the web at [www.sfgiants.com/specialevents](http://www.sfgiants.com/specialevents) under Law Enforcement Night or by calling 415-972-2298. Tickets can also be purchased at the POA building at 800 Bryant Street. The price of the ticket includes a souvenir baseball beanie and admission to the hosted pre-game tailgate party held at the Mariposa Yacht Club at 3 pm on game day.

For further information, please contact either me at the POA at 415-861-5060 or Sgt. Bob Guinan, Co. K, Solos at 415-850-5726.

Please come out and support this wonderful event that goes to in part fund two great organizations. Thanks in advance for your consideration and participation. It means a lot to those who will benefit from your kindness.

**Soccer Anyone...**

I have been in contact with Mr. Yuri Morales of the San Jose Earthquakes professional soccer team and he has extended a very generous offer to our members and their families. The San Jose Earthquakes home games are played at Buck Shaw Stadium in Santa Clara. Mr. Morales is the Ticket Sales Representative for the Earthquakes and has made discount tickets available for the following soccer matches: Saturday July 12 vs. the Colorado Rapids @1:00 pm; Sunday July 27 vs. the New York Red Bulls @12:00 pm; Sunday August 3, vs. the Los Angeles Galaxy at the Oakland Coliseum; Saturday August 16 vs. the New England Revolution @ 7:00 pm; Saturday August 30 vs. the Kansas City Wizards @7:00 pm; Saturday September 6 vs. DC United @7:00 pm; Saturday September 13 vs. the Houston Dynamo @ 1:00 pm; Saturday September 27 vs. the Real Salt Lake @ 7:00 pm; Saturday October 11 vs. Chivas USA @ 7:00 PM and Saturday October 25 vs. Toronto FC @7:00 PM

To get your discount, please visit: [sjearthquakes.com](http://sjearthquakes.com) and enter coupon



Northern Station Captain Al Casciato presents Dan with a plaque honoring his service.

code sjfriends. The San Jose Earthquakes website is [www.sjearthquakes.com](http://www.sjearthquakes.com). If you have any questions or need further information please contact Mr. Morales at 408-556-7726.

Order your tickets now!

Thanks very much to Mr. Yuri Morales and to the San Jose Earthquakes for their generosity...GO QUAKES!!!

**Heartwarming moment...**

I was recently at Southern Station writing an arrest report when I overheard a conversation between a couple of recruits discussing one of their classmates who was going through a difficult time and experiencing some troubles in the FTO Program. The rookies were making plans to get together with other classmates and form a plan of action to assist their classmate. One of the rookies was saying to the other, "you can help him in this area, (problem area noted) I can help him with this problem (issue noted) and so and so along with so and so can help in this area (problem noted) because they are strong in this area and we can really bring him up to standard. If we all work together we can help pull him through." It was really great to hear these fellas talking and making plans to assist one of their classmates. It was important for them to see their pal make it through the program and were willing to sacrifice their time and efforts towards this goal. Teamwork is one of the necessary facets for success in this job and it was inspiring to see and hear that these younger guys really "get it." I have no doubt that with their assistance and encouragement their classmate will forge ahead and make it through this grueling process. I have no doubt that these two recruit officers have their hearts and minds in the right place and they are on the

fast track to successful and rewarding careers. Good luck guys, and keep up the great work.

**Take me out to the ballgame...**

Thanks very much to Sgt. Lou Espinda from the Gang Task Force/Fugitive Recovery Enforcement Team and Mr. Ken Nualla for their kindness and generosity in providing the POA with several tickets to a recent Giants baseball game at AT&T Park. The tickets were in turn donated to youngsters and staff at the South of Market Recreation Center at 270 6th Street. The staff and baseball fans were very grateful for the tickets and a great time was had by all...thanks again guys...

**Officer Needs Help...10-25**

Officer Mario Machi of Mission Station, a twenty-five year veteran of this department, recently suffered a heart attack. Although Mario is home and recovering, he has been enrolled in the Catastrophic Illness Program through the city and county as well as through the Behavioral Science Unit. I would ask any member who is eligible to please consider donating sick or vacation time to one of our own. Mario's Catastrophic Illness Program identification number is 001413.

Please feel free to come by the POA for a donor's form or please call me and I will see that you are sent a form via department mail. On behalf of Mario and his family, I genuinely thank you for your kindness and consideration in this matter.

Thanks to all the hardworking men and women of this department and of our association for all their hard work day in and day out. You all have a lot to be proud of and I for one don't think you are lauded for your tremendous efforts under our sometimes very trying conditions. Yeah, I know we each draw a paycheck every two weeks but I'd like to think that this job is so much more than that. I hope each of you, your families and loved ones have a great and very enjoyable summer. Remember...safety first! God bless you all and stay safe...

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## Notes from the Police Union Leadership Seminar

# Privatization Diminishing Modern Law Enforcement

## *SFPD already impacted by civilianization and enhanced patrol technology*

By Ray Shine  
Editor, POA Journal

*Editor's note: Many challenging issues facing law enforcement union leaders were discussed at the annual Police Union Leadership Seminar held on the Harvard campus last April. Leaders from the largest police unions in the US and Canada attended the conference, including a contingent from the SFPOA. The Labor and Worklife Program of the Harvard Law School and American Police Beat magazine, published and edited by Cynthia Brown, co-hosted the seminar. This article expands on one of the issues discussed at the gathering.*

The alarm was long ago sounded warning police labor leaders about the encroachment of privatization into traditional law enforcement jobs. Now, on the heels of a nation-wide mortgage crisis and bond-laden municipal and state debts, more cash-strapped cities and states are looking at civilianizing or contracting out traditional municipal public safety services. Elected officials across the land are scrambling to stave off a rising tides of red ink that each finds soaking through his or her debit ledgers. Increasingly, these comptrollers and elected officials are looking to the corporate world for part of the bailout.

In San Francisco, nearly 116 positions have been identified within the SFPD that are ripe for civilianizing. Thus far, 30 of those positions have swapped out sworn officers with lesser-paid non-sworn persons. If the entire lot of jobs goes civilian, the number of sworn officers will be reduced from the mandated number of 1,971 to 1,856. Beyond the office shuffle in places like the record room and crime lab, the SFPD has also embraced the use of technology to replace other sworn duties. The encroachment of civilians, corporations, and gadgetry should give police union leaders pause, if not outright paranoia.

The trend is not unique to San Francisco, which enjoys a healthier fiscal situation than other Bay Area cities. Nationally, the trend is well ingrained in the budget offices of counties and cities desperate to balance public safety salary obligations against higher taxes or bond indebtedness. One way to forego a budget calamity is to pare off non-essential aspects of public safety functions and sell them on spec to the highest corporate bidder. Doing so enables the jurisdiction to downsize the police or sheriff department and, in some instances, fire and paramedic divisions. At the same time, the local government may be able to realize a bit of general fund profit taking generated by licensing and other fees paid by the winning bidder.

Recently, the city of Vallejo, California declared bankruptcy. The ballyhoo generated by the city's debt walk away has been focused not on inept municipal management, but on the old standby scapegoats — police and fire unions and their contracts. Once again, a fairly won and well-deserved law enforcement MOU takes the heat for the demise of city services, and local pols are quick to point to what they portray as lucrative and inflated public safety contracts. Never mind that those same politicians are the

civic leaders who bequeathed the contract in the first place, justifying the need to recruit and retain more highly qualified officers needed to patrol neighborhoods and staff the pet crime-fighting projects in each elected person's corner of the city.

*It is ironic that police union leaders might soon find themselves in the odd position of advocating for more strenuous civilian oversight in order to stave off the encroachment of corporate privatization.*

None of that matters now, and extreme pressure has been put on the union leaders to cut the benefits and save the city. The response has been mass retirements and officers job-hunting elsewhere in the state. The void left by exiting officers will be large, and the circumstances are prime for a corporate step-in to fill the need with non-sworn personnel. If that happens, those civil service law enforcement jobs may be lost forever.

While the case in Vallejo is extreme, the situation in Oakland is not. Just a short drive west on highway I-80 will land one in that beleaguered city, a town with a high crime rate and budget woes of its own. The Oakland police have their hands full, and they are among the best in the state at doing more with less. Yet, despite the call for more officers, city council members are looking to the Big Board for a fast crime fighting solve.

In an article published in the April 16, 2008 *San Francisco Chronicle*, a bold headline reads "City OKs hiring armed guards to patrol in East Oakland." The sub-head explains; "Businesses there can't afford to hire on own, officials say." The ones wearing the white hats in this story are the managers of the federally funded Oakland Redevelopment Agency who intend to use public monies to hire a private security firm that will employ armed guards to patrol business districts in East Oakland. The idea, according to agency manager Larry Gallegos, is to "augment the Oakland Police Department's walking officers, who increasingly are being called off their assignments to be on patrol duty because of the department's shortage of officers."

There is a minimum standard of training that a private security guard must attend before the state will issue him or her a guard card, but it is many notches below what the California State Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) require for an entry-level sworn officer. The wisdom of placing minimally trained armed guards to patrol a troublesome shopping district is fleeting. While the guards may be well-meaning individuals, they are not subject to

the constraints of highly trained officers. With limited enforcement power, guards will become frustrated and angry at the contempt from the criminal class that will not respect or even fear them.

### Jails and Prisons among the first privatized Institutions

Privatization of correctional facilities has been in existence for more than two decades. The notion that a for-profit corporation can house, rehab, and redeem a state or county's convict population does seem to have captured the interest of many state legislatures. One of the nation's industry leaders is Corrections Corporation of America, symbol CXW on the NY Stock Exchange. CXW boasts that it "manages approximately 72,000 inmates including males, females, and juveniles at all security levels, in 65 facilities under contract for management in 19 states and the District of Columbia." According to information posted on its web site, the corporation "partners with all three federal corrections agencies, almost half of all states and several municipalities."

There must be some profit taking involved in running a prison, or CXW would not be trading on the stock market. But that is not the only corporate dalliance in the civil service venues. A Google search of "private police patrols" will reveal pages of links to corporate sites that furnish armed police patrols for hire.

The free market place is driving the dynamo of privatization. While police unions across the nation have enjoyed comfortable gains in salary and benefits over the past decade, that very success may be contributing to the demise of traditional law enforcement strongholds. The short of it: cops might be pricing themselves out of the competitive market.

### Boston Cops get in the Bid



Thomas J. Nee

Thomas J. Nee, president of the Boston Police Patrolman's Association, is one of the loudest voices sounding the alarm against corporate and private encroachment. Speaking before the Big 50 at the most recent conference hosted by the Police Union Leadership Seminar (LWP), Nee explained that construction companies and commercial property managers would, when given the reasonable competitive choice, prefer a sworn police officer over a private armed guard. The reasons are obvious: more training, more experience, more authority. Perhaps one should add to that list less liability. No amount of training or certification, no locked-in contractual clauses will ever afford a private guard with the breath and depth of experience common to veteran sworn officers. Nee is acutely aware of this, and uses the experience factor as his trump card when negotiating to provide sworn officers for contracted work details, primarily traffic control at construction sites, and enhanced patrols on private property.

Nee strives to keep police services competitive by keeping cost per hour

just a few dollars ahead of private security costs, yet attractive enough to generate interest from his members. Nee believes that job foremen and building managers will happily pay a few dollars more per hour for a sworn officer. So far, his marketing plan has provided his membership with constant OT opportunities.

### "Admin Fees" are Killing the Golden Goose

If it were up to Nee to set up the provisions of the service contracts, things would be well enough. However, like in most agencies across the land, the departments and/or municipalities want their cut of the pie. It is common practice that a company contracting with the local municipality must not only pay for the overtime cost of the officer, but also an "administrative fee" for the use of the city resource. While Nee and other savvy union leaders can make reasonable efforts to reduce costs and keep the service of sworn officers competitive, the unreasonable admin fees are usually beyond the scope of Nee's direct negotiating influence, and he lobbies hard against them at the local and state level.

San Francisco is a good example of costs for city officers gone awry. The city's once robust film industry has all but disappeared. In the 1980s and 90s, the city was backdrop, locale, and studio to scores of feature films, television shows, and TV commercials. But after leaps gained in police salaries (and other trade unions) and an exorbitant administrative fee tacked onto each hour of pay for each cop in the filming detail, the price for shooting here drove the film companies elsewhere. Today, as the price for a single motorcycle cop at time and one half plus admin fees nears \$100 per hour, the quaint cable cars and magnificent Golden Gate Bridge become too costly for virtually the same beauty shots that can be had in more accommodating cities such as Seattle or Vancouver.

### Civilian Review Loses Sway

The use of private guard services for patrol and security work also flies in the face of current trends in civilian oversight. Over the past two decades, most metropolitan communities have adapted police oversight policies. The extent of authority and power to discipline varies from agency to agency, but the trend to closely and meticulously scrutinize the actions of the local sworn officers is deeply rooted in the principles of modern municipal administration. How will the various police oversight agencies deal with the actions of private contract employees? Not directly, and not well.

The only sway an oversight committee might have over a rogue security employee is by way of the corporate contract, and to get there one must go through the offices of the corporate risk managers. To think that a civilian oversight agency — such as the decades old Office of Civilian Complaints in San Francisco — will have any investigative and disciplinary capacity in relation to a private company employee is ludicrous. Even if such a provision were established contractually, what compels a private person to comply with the mandates of a

community agency? The contractual provisions will not be easily pursued against the contract employer, either. Few corporations will be willing to submit an employee to any third-party investigation that might ultimately jeopardize the corporate bottom line. If the San Francisco OCC finds the SFPOA defense mechanisms to be obstructionist and delaying, imagine what it would be like for the agency to go up against a phalanx of corporate attorneys whose sole job it would be to protect the company from any liability generated by one of its employees.

The more that police responsibilities become privatized, the less control community oversight will have on the actions of the contract employees patrolling the streets and malls of their communities. It is ironic that police union leaders might soon find themselves in the odd position of advocating for more strenuous civilian oversight in order to stave off the encroachment of corporate privatization. Will union leaders soon be arguing that privatization of police jobs is detrimental to the community because it diminishes the powers of community overseers?

### The Techno Factor

Another aspect of privatizing law enforcement functions is the use of technology to replace officers on patrol. Video cameras have long been in place at the nation's public areas and commercial buildings, but the events of 9-11 have increased their use exponentially. The City and County of San Francisco recently embraced the technology by placing surveillance cameras in high-crime neighborhoods, supposedly to be monitored by officers or civilians at the local station or dispatch center. So far, the program has been less than stellar, and results disappointing to those administrators and elected officials who touted their use in the first place. Due to a variety of environmental and technical issues, the cameras fail to accomplish what the city leaders had wanted — real-time surveillance that could generate rapid response to developing incidents. The images are poor, too dependent on ambient lighting, and of course, the local criminals know camera locations. Despite all the high praise, street surveillance cameras can not replace the knowledgeable, savvy beat cop when it comes to knowing who's who and how the interactions between the street characters really plays out.

There is a bottom line, however, and that is that the annual cost to train, equip, and deploy one veteran beat officer can instead be used to purchase and position dozens of cameras. Again, the bottom line is all about cost, and the ones first in line to dip long arms into the city's pockets are the corporations that build and sell the camera technology.

The fact that the San Francisco street surveillance camera project is ineffective and languishes in disuse should not be cause for police unions to dismiss the techno factor altogether. The corporations are not sitting on developed technology. Quite the contrary. Engineering and innovation are evolving rapidly, and will continue to improve and become cost effective. It is merely a matter of time before GPS, mini cameras, RADAR, LASAR, voice activation, less-than-lethal, face recognition, and a Google's worth of existing and developing technology displace sworn officers in the policing of metropolitan and rural districts alike.



The intersection of 9th Street and Howard is just one of several dozen SF intersections outfitted with Red Light cameras.

The development of these and other technologies is probably advantageous to hard-working street cops. The quarrel should not be with the technology. But if current trends are any indication, the employment of these technologies will be increasingly corporate driven, and provided to police departments through lucrative and privatized contracts that will utilize non-sworn corporate employees to administer, maintain, and self-audit the private programs. How far off are we from the day when street cops answer to both a Chief of Police and a private IT or Technology CEO?

### Are SF Motorists Victims of Corporate Whimsy?

That level of advancement has already rooted itself in the area of traffic enforcement. San Francisco has been using Red Light Cameras to enforce traffic laws for a decade. That program uses civilians employed by private corporate contractors to inspect the photo images on computers to determine if a violator is identifiable and subject to a citation. Those images that are deemed prosecutable are forwarded to a single sworn police officer whose job it is to sign dozens of red light citations each week. It is basically just a technicality, and the police officer is merely rubber-stamping the work and conclusion of the private corporate employee who evaluates the merits of each violation. For each violation that results in the payment of a traffic fine, the corporation receives from the city a percentage of the money paid by the violator or the owner of the offending vehicle. It is to the corporation's advantage to process as many of those violations as possible, and any discretion that may have once belonged to the enforcing traffic cop has vanished with the times.

Even the courts are giving local communities the green light on private traffic enforcement cameras. In a recent decision from the California Court of Appeal, the judges sided with attorneys representing a company called ACS. That company is the contractor that has installed and maintains the scores of red light cameras placed around the San Francisco. In the landmark decision, the court ruled that San Francisco and other cities that gave private contractors a percentage of each generated fine was legal and contractually binding.

Attorneys who argued against the contractual pay scheme pointed out to the court that the provisions of these private contracts were incentives to the companies to inflate the number of citations in order to increase the corporate revenues. To counter that, the court ruled that it is not "inher-

ently sinister when the contracts gave municipalities exclusive discretion to decide whether to issue citations and exclusive prosecutorial authority."

Not so, argued the plaintiff attorneys, citing real-life procedures currently in place. Attorney Brian Burchett, a lawyer for the cited drivers, said that the notion that city police departments examine each photo and decide when to issue citations is an illusion. "There's no way the cops have enough time to look at these and make closely informed decisions," he said. "The extent of police involvement was rubber-stamping the decisions" by employees of ACS.

### Has the Train left the Station?

Is the encroachment and privatization of traditional law enforcement tasks inevitable and irreversible? Many believe so. The day is probably not far off that a typical large urban police agency employs fewer sworn officers, and more non-sworn employees or contract providers for routine community services. Police union leaders must not hide their heads in the sands of tradition. It is time to confront the specter of privatization realistically, and aggressively.

## SF General Hospital Cops May Fall to Privatization

Submitted by Bill Kelly, Esq.  
Former SFPD

*Editor's note: The following piece written by Bill Kelly on Thursday, June 26, 2008 encapsulates what is poised to be another devastating blow to San Francisco law enforcement by the specter of privatization. — RS*

I received a telephone call late this afternoon advising me that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee had voted 3 to 2 to recommend that the full Board approve that portion of the Department of Public Health budget that calls for privatization of security and police services at SFGH, LHH and the clinics.

The Institutional Police Officers Association has expended many hours during recent days trying to defeat this proposal. I was personally present at a Committee meeting when Mr. Greg Sass and Mr. DelVecchio Findley of DPH made serious misrepresentations of fact to the Board; misrepresentations that made this proposal appear benign.

I attach my letter outlining these misrepresentations and setting out the true facts.

A highly active lobbying campaign is needed if this travesty is to be avoided. Adopting this proposals means that 19 people loss their jobs to \$14/hr security guards who work for a private company and can do nothing more than call the SFPD for just about all of the 70 to 100 calls a day which the current staff addresses routinely.

The City is not going to save any money because the SFPD time expended doing the work that deputies and IPs now do will more than consume any perceived savings.

The ED, and other areas at SFGH will be far less safe. LHH will be less safe. The list goes on.

I am aware that the Board is concerned about getting more deputies in the jails, and they should be concerned, but that does not explain or justify laying off these IPs who cannot work the jails anyway.

Should you think, as I do, that this is a bad idea call members of the Board of Supervisors and tell them so. Call the mayor and tell him so.

## Retirements

The San Francisco Police Officers' Association congratulates the following POA members on his or her recent retirement from the SFPD. These veterans will be difficult to replace, as each takes with him or her decades of experience and job knowledge. The most recently retired POA members are:

- Sergeant Felix Bilbao #392 from Airport Bureau
- Officer Alfred Delacerda #276 from Support Services
- Sergeant Daniel Linehan #1094 from Northern Station
- Officer Winfred Jew #673 from Tactical Company
- Lieutenant Donald Sloan #1385 from Airport Bureau



The last day at work for Sergeant Vince Simpson #1474, a member of the 129th Recruit Class, Vince was sworn in on August 15, 1977. Above, from L to R: Capt. O'Neill, Sgt. Vince Simpson, Rafina Dreo, A/C Lynch, Comm. Harper, Chief Fong, Lt. Schlotz, Off. Chuck Simpson.

## News from the DA's Office

### DA Obtains Grand Jury Indictment Of Attempted Murderer

#### SFPD Officers were target of the assault

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — San Francisco District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced that Frank Valle, age 51, CTN 2370861, was indicted by the San Francisco Grand Jury on June 3, 2008 on seven felony counts for shooting at two San Francisco police officers, Dennis Cravalho and Paulo Morgado.

"We cannot tolerate any individual who threatens the safety of the men and women who serve our City as members of the San Francisco Police Department," said District Attorney Kamala D. Harris. "I am grateful to these officers for their service and thankful that there were no serious injuries sustained."

The man accused of shooting at the two police officers, defendant Valle, was arraigned today in Department 22 of San Francisco Superior Court by Judge Kay Tsenin.

The shooting took place on May 19, 2007 as police attempted to apprehend

the defendant who was suspected of burglarizing a home on the Great Highway. The defendant was arrested on the day of the shooting which took place at Taraval and 48th Avenue.

Eighteen witnesses testified at the Grand Jury over three days, including 11 sworn police and CSI personnel, four civilians and three crime lab specialists in GSR, ballistics, and DNA evidence respectively.

Defendant Valle is charged with two counts of deliberate and premeditated attempted murder against a police officer (PC 664/187) and two counts of assault on a peace officer with a semi-automatic firearm (PC 245(d)(2)). Each of the four charges carries a firearm discharge allegation (PC 12022.53(c)). The defendant also faces first degree residential burglary charges (PC 459) of a home on the Great Highway and charges of receiving stolen property PC 496(a) related to possession of a stolen semi-automatic weapon used in the course of the shooting and a bicycle stolen from the property on the Great Highway. As a convicted felon, the defendant has also been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm (PC 12021(a)(1)).

The defendant's bail has been set at two million dollars. He remains in custody where he has been since the time of his arrest. Defendant Valle faces multiple life terms with at least 20 years fixed term before the starts of a life sentences. The defendant also has on prior robbery strike from 1975, one 1983 methamphetamine possession and a 1980 ex-felon with a gun conviction. All prior convictions are from the City and County of San Francisco.

Mike Gaynor is the SFPD Homicide Inspector assigned to the case. Jerry Coleman is the Assistant District Attorney prosecuting the case.

### Beware of Google Access to Private Phone Info

By Rene LaPrevotte, Retired  
SFPOA Internet Watchdog

Google has implemented a new feature that enables you to type a telephone number into the search bar and hit enter, and you will be given the person's name and address. If you then hit MapQuest, you will get a map to the person's house.

Everyone should be aware of this! It's a nationwide reverse telephone book. If a child gives out his/her phone number, someone can now look it up to find out where he/she lives. The safety issues are obvious and alarming.

Note that you can have your phone number removed or blocked. I tried my number and it came up along with the map and directions straight to our house. I did fill out the removal form for myself, and encourage all of you to do the same.

In order to test whether your phone number is mapped, go to Google at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), type your phone number in the search bar (e.g. 555-555-1212) and press enter. If you want to BLOCK Google from divulging your private information, simply click on your telephone number and then click on the Removal Form. Removal takes 48-hours.

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# News from the DA's Office

## Defendants Charged and Arraigned In Two Separate Robbery Attacks

SAN FRANCISCO, CA District Attorney Kamala D. Harris announced today the charging and arraignment of four co-defendants in a SOMA neighborhood robbery and another three defendants in a separate Mission District robbery. All defendants were charged on June 2, 2008 and arraigned the following day in San Francisco Superior Court.

"Whether it's the Mission or Pacific Heights, SOMA or North Beach, if you're caught robbing someone in San Francisco, you will be held accountable," said District Attorney Kamala D. Harris. "Robbery is serious and violent crime. Anyone out there even considering robbing someone, especially with a gun, should know that the penalties are severe and will be enforced."

Antonio Johnson, age 27, CTN 2370372, Donnie Bell, age 26 CTN 2370370, Duroen Cheeves, age 20 CTN 2370375 and Byron Cheeves, age 22 CTN 2370373 were charged with robbery for allegedly holding up a victim at gunpoint on 5th and Market Streets in San Francisco's SOMA neighborhood.

The alleged robbery, involving a single male victim, took place at 11pm on May 30, 2008. The suspects are alleged to have fled the scene by car after taking the victim's money, cell phone and Newport cigarettes.

Following a police chase that ended on the Bay Bridge, the suspects were apprehended by police and arrested just before midnight on the same day the incident is alleged to have taken place.

Each of the defendants in the SOMA robbery were charged with robbery in violation of penal code section 211, receiving stolen property in violation of penal code section 496(a), and evading

an officer in violation of vehicle code section 2800.2. Defendant Johnson also faces a charge of resisting an officer in violation of penal code section 148(a).

All four defendants in the SOMA incident were arraigned on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 in Department 9 of San Francisco Superior Court. The next scheduled court appearance for the SOMA robbery defendants is June 11, 2008 for a pretrial hearing conference. All of the SOMA incident defendants are currently in custody. Defendants Johnson and Bell had their bail set at \$250,000 at the time of arraignment. Defendants Cheeves's bail was set at \$150,000.

For a separate, unrelated incident, Damon Griggs, age 28, CTN 2370273, Pierre Saunders, age 20, CTN 2370253 were charged with robbery in violation of penal code section 211, receiving stolen property in violation of penal code section 496(a) and resisting arrest in violation of penal code section 148(a). Defendant Griggs was also charged with a violation of vehicle section 2800.2 for evading an officer, possession of a controlled substance in violation of penal code section 11377(a) and driving with an suspended license, a misdemeanor violation of penal code section 14601.1(a).

The defendants Griggs and Saunders are alleged to have robbed three male victims at approximately 4:20am on May 30, 2008 at the corner of 17th and Capp Streets in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood.

The three victims allege they were standing on the corner when vehicle drove past them, circled the block and then stopped in front of them. At which point, two defendants allegedly got out of the car and robbed the victims of their personal belongings,

including an iPod. The defendants then allegedly drove away, but were apprehended and arrested an hour or so after the incident by police in Bayview following a brief chase. The suspects' vehicle was identified by its license plate number which had been provided to police by the victims when they called to report the incident.

The defendants attempted to flee the vehicle when it was stopped, but were caught by the police, including a third suspect, Michael Arevalo, age 23, CTN 2370262. Arevalo was charged with receiving stolen property in violation of penal code section 496(a), resisting arrest in violation of penal code section 148(a) and possession of a controlled substance in violation of penal code section 11377(a).

The three defendants in the Mission

incident were arraigned in Department 10 of San Francisco Superior Court on June 3, 2008. At the time of arraignment stay-away orders were issued for all three defendants in relation to the three named victims in the case.

The next scheduled court appearance for Defendant Aravelo is June 5, 2008 for a supervised pretrial release eligibility hearing. All three defendants in the Mission incident are scheduled to return to court on June 16, 2008 for a pretrial hearing conference. The Mission incident defendants currently remain in custody. Defendant Griggs bail set at \$400,000 at the time of arraignment. Defendant Saunders' bail was set at \$100,000 and Defendant Aravelo's bail was set at \$33,000.

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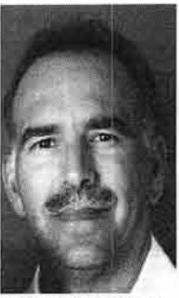
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# The Black Hand

By Kevin Mullen,  
Historian  
Retired SFPD

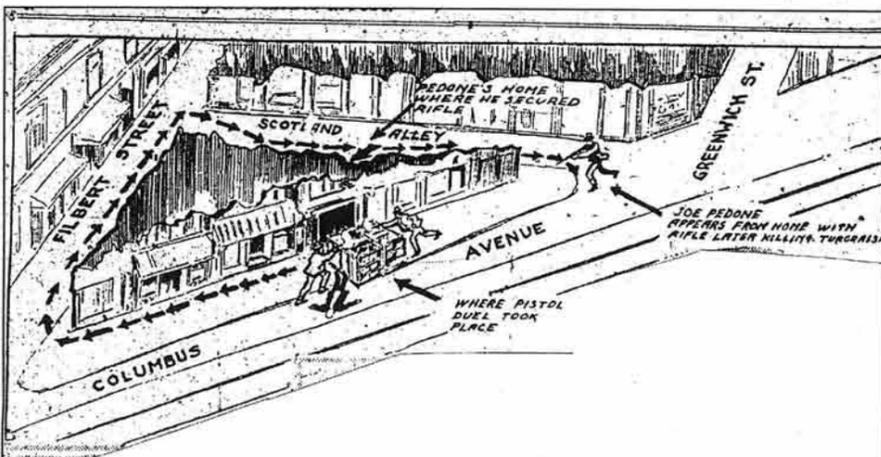
On Thanksgiving Day 1916, Gaetano Ingrassia, a successful masonry contractor, left his home at 1622 Powell Street to take a walk through his North Beach neighborhood following the family's holiday meal. It was a calculated risk. Ingrassia had recently received several threatening letters from Black Hand gangsters demanding that he pay them \$2,000 under threat that his family home would be bombed.

Ingrassia reported the threats to the police who gave him a permit to carry a firearm for his protection, but suggested that he keep his head down while they worked the case. Not one to be cowed, Ingrassia went for his regular postprandial stroll that night, armed with two loaded revolvers. As he passed the Buena Vista Ice Cream Parlor at 735 Columbus Street, Ingrassia was confronted by Joseph and Antonio Pedona,

*In all, 20 shots were exchanged. Antonio Pedona was struck in the ankle by one of the nine shots fired by Ingrassia, and his brother Joseph was hit in the chest, though the bullet was deflected by a religious amulet he wore.*

Both sides began blazing away at each other with firearms from opposite sides of a pile of crates stacked on the sidewalk. In all, 20 shots were exchanged. Antonio Pedona was struck in the ankle by one of the nine shots fired by Ingrassia, and his brother Joseph was hit in the chest, though the bullet was deflected by a religious amulet he wore. Ingrassia, hit in the chin and neck, also fell to the pavement.

A nephew of the Pedonas, seeing his uncles engaged in a shootout, ran around the corner to the family's Scotland Street home, where he armed himself with a rifle. Returning to the scene, he dispatched Ingrassia with a coup de grace to the head, and fled the scene. All three Pedonas were promptly arrested; tried; convicted;



Young Pedona. ran back on Columbus and around the corner to the family home on Scotland Alley where he acquired a rifle. Then he continued on, coming up behind Ingrassia and dispatching him with a shot to the head.

and sentenced to terms of imprisonment at San Quentin.

Americans had been concerned about the arrival of Black Hand—or, as they thought, Mafia—gangsters since the large influx of immigrants from Southern Italy in the late nineteenth century. National attention was drawn to the situation with the murder of New Orleans police chief David Hennessey in 1892 by Italian gangsters when he sided with one faction against the other. A number of Italians were arrested in the case. Their acquittal at trial outraged the citizenry who went to the jail and lynched 11 Sicilian prisoners being held there.

Beginning in the 1890s, accounts of Italian homicides in San Francisco were increasingly associated with suspicions that a Mafia was involved. When Antonio Lalla was arrested for slashing a woman's throat on 1st Street in 1892, he was identified in the press as one of the Mafia men who had been involved in the assassination of New Orleans Police Chief David Hennessey. In another case, the 1899 killing of Joseph Sierro by Filippo Fertita in a dispute between fishermen, newspapers speculated that the killer was involved with the Mafia.

Actually, the term "Mafia" was a misnomer for the activity taking place. As depicted in any number of potboiler books and films, the term "Mafia" conjures up images of highly centralized and organized groups with ties to gangs in Sicily and southern Italy. The Black Hand was indeed rooted in the southern Italian criminal tradition but it lacked the organizational cohesion usually attributed to organized crime. The Black Hand was a process rather than an organization. It was a technique used by any number of small groups in the immigrant community who oppressed their own people, extorting money from them, fully confident that their victims would not involve the American authorities.

The Black Handers would single out one of their countrymen who had made an economic success in the new world and demand tribute by means of anonymous letters bearing a drawing of a black hand, under threat of doing harm to the victims or their families. One of the letters written in Italian to Ingrassia was typical:

Dear Friend, Some of our friends in our society want you to carry \$2,000 in gold. Then we want you to go from San Francisco by the electric cars to San Mateo on a Saturday afternoon. When you get there, walk on the railroad track and some good friend is going to approach you. He is our friend and you will give him the money. Otherwise it will be very bad for you.

The final letter received by Ingrassia,

just before his death, threatened to blow up his home with his family inside.

The second decade of the 20th Century was the heyday of the Black Hand bombers. On April 22, 1911, a bomb exploded on the threshold of a baker named Cassou, who had previously ignored a demand for \$2,000. In



Antonio Pedona

1914, there were several Black Hand incidents. In September 1915, two officials of the Unione Siciliane were arrested for trying to extort money from the president of the Western Fish Company and an agent for the Alaska Packing Company. Two months later, Black Handers tried to extort money from Achille Paladini, President of the Fish Trust. In October 1916, Frank Palozotta's home at 628 Chenery Street in the quiet Glen Park district was bombed. Just a few months before the Ingrassia killing, Antonio Pedona had been implicated in a Black Hand killing in Martinez, but had been released for lack of evidence when a critical witness died suddenly.

If things were troubling in San Francisco, conditions were even worse elsewhere. Between January 1, 1910, and March 26, 1911—during which period there were three homicides committed by Italians in San Francisco—Chicago suffered 38 unsolved Italian killings. In one three-month period in 1913, according to a contemporary newspaper account, there were 55 bombings in Chicago's "spaghetti zone," compared to 14 in the San Francisco Bay Area for an entire four-year period about the same time. Part of the disparity had to do with the rapid growth of Chicago's Italian community. By 1910, Chicago's Italian population, which had been approximately the same size as that in San Francisco in 1890, grew to be three times larger. More significant was the nature of the newcomers. The older, established Italian communities in both cities tended to originate in northern Italy; the newcomers came from the South.

One aspect of the immigration story generally is how earlier arrivals smoothed the way for later arrivals, either by informal means or by the formation of immigrant aid societies. A less familiar part of the story is that older immigrants, having partially assimilated, sometimes distanced themselves from the embarrassing crudities of the later arrivals. It is a common occurrence. "Lace curtain" Nineteenth Century Irish looked down on shanty-dwelling Irish newcomers. Turn-of-the-twentieth century New York German Jews often shunned

their more exotic co-religionists newly arrived from Poland and Russia. More recently, it was the treatment of the ABCs [American born Chinese] of the FOBs [Fresh off the Boat] Chinese that fostered the growth of Chinese youth gangs in the late Twentieth Century San Francisco.

It was the same with turn-of-the-Twentieth Century Italians. To some extent in San Francisco, says historian Deanna Gumina, "The pioneers, the Genoese, Tuscans and others who could have served as guides to those who came later, rather shunned the [southerners] and kept to themselves." The divide was even more pronounced in Chicago where the relatively small Northern Italian community was overwhelmed by newcomers from the South who took low-paying jobs in the burgeoning economy. In addition to the endemic hostility between north and south, any community resources to aid the newcomers in Chicago were taxed beyond their limits. The community "lost much of its original solidarity and became increasingly racked by strife," says Sebastian Fichera, chronicler of San Francisco's Italian community. Instead of hanging together to fight common problems, the Italian community in Chicago fragmented and withdrew inside itself.

One result was that Italians had a different experience with criminal violence in the two cities. In 1907 Chicago, respectable Italians formed a "White Hand society," which identified Blackhanders to the police and helped convict them. "A large number of criminals apprehended through its efforts went free," reports Fichera, "some escaped conviction altogether; others sent to prison were being released after one or two years." And the upshot was that "the few witnesses who had risked their lives by giving testimony against the gangsters soon found themselves at the mercy of the ex-convicts." "Both the paroled convicts and the witnesses were now residents of the same neighborhoods," he says, and "not surprisingly," the program failed.

"In North Beach, on the other hand," Fichera continues, "the community's strength was the underworld's weakness for the gangsters never found the kind of cover to which they were accustomed in Chicago." On evidence of witnesses, the gangsters were sent to prison. More to the point, unlike in Chicago, they remained in jail. In San Francisco, as seen in the case of the killing of Ingrassia, justice was swift and certain. "[Ingrassia's] death was not in vain," reports Fichera, "for others took up the battle where he left off; the police made arrests, witnesses testified, juries convicted. With the cooperation of North Beach residents, the relevant institutions worked in the way they were meant and the problem, if not solved, was certainly brought under control." One result of these differences, claims Fichera, was a disparate incidence of criminal violence.

Differing police capabilities seems to have something to do with the different rates of crime by Italians in San Francisco and Chicago as well. Writing about Chicago at about the same time, Herbert Asbury reports that the police were "demoralized and helpless and the whole machinery of law-enforcement [was] in a condition

continued on next page

## SURROUNDED: Life On and Off Duty as a Female Police Officer

*Inspirational New Memoir Details Fascinating Life of "Officer Beth"*

Las Vegas — There's Judge Judy. There's Dr. Laura. And now there's another powerful woman who is tough, compassionate and tells it like it is: Officer Beth. In her new book, *SURROUNDED*, "Officer Beth" Pedrodalasol reveals the details of her fascinating life as a San Francisco Police Officer nearly killed in the line of duty, a Combat Marine Mom, a Billionaire Bodyguard and a Las Vegas Dealer.

Although *SURROUNDED* may read like a novel, the stories of Officer Beth's life are all very true, from her Cinderella-like journey from the Philippines to the United States, to the challenges of becoming a San Francisco Police Officer at age 22, to her undercover work and narrow escape from death. Her sometimes funny, sometimes sad, often inspirational and always entertaining stories, offer readers a remarkable glimpse into on-and-off-duty life.

"Clear your mind and pretend that this book is from a friend who is telling you where she's been, where she is, and where she is going," Officer Beth tells her readers. "My goal is for this book to be a weapon of mass construction for the heart, mind, body, and spirit. What the world needs now is love, sweet love."

As she writes from the heart, Officer Beth encourages her readers to acknowledge that "being a coward is never an option" and works to exude "courage, bravery and plain guts." Her tales of life extend beyond her role as a police officer and into the personal realm of *FAMILY, LOVE and FAITH*. She writes candidly of the tragic death of her oldest brother just two months before she entered the police academy, and her plans to avenge his death that were set aside after a vision-like dream of her brother.

Officer Beth also writes about her "bulletproof" marriage to Inspector



Larry, whom she met while working undercover; her time as a bodyguard for the famed Getty family; her days and nights as a successful Las Vegas games dealer; and her role as a United States Marine Corps. Mom.

In the second part of *SURROUNDED*, Officer Beth provides readers with "Emergency Life Directions."

"It's my prayer that you learn from my mistakes and from the brave people, the cowards, and the survivors that I talk about," writes Officer Beth. "We're surrounded by humans. We need a lot of good directions and life reminders so we STOP HURTING ONE ANOTHER. Life is not supposed to hurt."

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## The Black Hand

continued from previous page

of collapse." In San Francisco, on the other hand, enforcement efforts were supported by the general public and the press.

"If, as alleged, there is a 'Forty Strong Gang' on North Beach," reported a contemporary newspaper, "it should be included in the 'clean up' now under way."

It is well known that there is among the Sicilians a very turbulent element which is accustomed to act together in rather loose organizations for all sorts of criminal enterprises and it is evident that some of that element has immigrated to this country, of which some have found their way to the city and the North Beach. They all have revolvers and never hesitate to use them. And they use knives as readily as revolvers. As they must be known, one way to deal with them is to search every one of them as a known criminal whenever he appears on the street, confiscate all deadly weapons of every kind and send them to jail for carrying them concealed.

It might not have seemed right away that things were improving. A year after Ingrassia's killing, in November 1917, Ingrassia's son-in-law, Mario Alioto, uncle of the future mayor Joseph Alioto, was killed on the same spot by Antonio Lipari, a friend of the Pedonas. Giuseppe and Ignacio Alioto

armed themselves and went to Hall of Justice at Kearny and Washington to exact vengeance on Lipari, who, they claimed, was a Black Hand. Police deflected their attempt.

But the writing was on the wall. By the 1920s, Black Hand extortion was effectively ended in San Francisco. It would be disingenuous to suggest that there was no more criminal violence in San Francisco's Italian community. There were more than enough to hog headlines during the Prohibition Era. (Indeed, the illegal liquor business provided an alternative—and less risky—revenue source for those inclined to make a quick buck.) And in 1947 the murdered body of a Chicago gangster, Nick DeJohn, was found in the trunk of a Chrysler Town and Country in San Francisco's Marina District, giving rise to ruminations about Italian organized crime in San Francisco.

But no longer would prominent members of the city's Italian community be terrorized by anonymous letters bearing the stamp of the Black Hand

Retired deputy chief Kevin J. Mullen has written several books on the city's criminal justice history. Comments and criticism are welcome at [KM870@aol.com](mailto:KM870@aol.com).

## POA Book Reviews

### The Blue Religion

*New Stories about Cops, Criminals, and the Chase*

Edited by Michael Connelly  
Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

The introduction of *The Blue Religion* includes an observation, allegedly made by Joseph Wambaugh, defining the elements of a good police story; it's not about how cops work on their cases but how the cases work on the cops. Sadly, Wambaugh is not represented in the short stories that follow, but I believe he said it perfectly — as usual.

Most of the authors in this collection of short stories about cops and criminals are better known for their novels. The editor, Michael Connelly, might be the best known and best-selling police procedural writer in the group. His list of novels is lengthy in both numbers and years of being best sellers. He contributes a story of a child abuse investigation, recapping how smart investigators use their skills as observers and interrogators. Their work reveals what really happened to the child of a social-climbing couple. Good story, but not what I'm used to from Mr. Connelly. It's not that Connelly writes poorly. Never. He is a consummate professional at plot, at character and with the use of the language. I think it's just that he set the bar so high in his previous works I found the story lacking his usual nuances.

That aside, Connelly has put together a great collection that is perfect for summer reading, or perhaps for your nightstand. The length of each story, perhaps 12 to 25 pages, make them ideal for escaping the world before dozing off. And the variety is excellent.

First T. Jefferson Parker gives us a first-person narrative from the wife of a retired Laguna Beach police officer. In moving to Idaho they believe that they can get away from the drugs and violence her husband had to deal with

on his job. Hmm. Maybe not, but what a great portrayal of an honest, caring hard-working cop. Eighteen more stories follow that kept me smiling.

One particular story stood out: "Oaths, Ohana and Everything," by Diana Hansen-Young. The setting is Hawaii at the beginning of the 20th Century. The author shows us an entirely different form of police work. The work is not only done from horseback and foot but amidst a culture of family (Ohana) that is being disrupted by the shifting of government authority to the mainland. I wanted to make copies this story for the many Hawaiian friends I have been fortunate to know over the years.

One of the authors, Greg Rucka, was born in San Francisco, raised in the "Steinbeck Country" of California's Central Coast and now lives in Portland Oregon. His story, "Contact and Cover" addresses the problem of relying on your co-worker for cover when your co-worker believes you're not capable of doing the job. It's a little over the top, but entertaining, nonetheless.

"Divine Droplets," by Paula Woods gives us a look at the arrogance of the type of criminal who can afford great lawyers and buy witnesses. It also shows justice arriving in a manner quite outside the courtroom.

Another author, Alafair Burke is the daughter of famed crime novelist James Lee Burke. Not yet her father's equal, she's pretty darn good anyway. Her story is about a female officer attacked on the job, only to then be forced to control her husband from seeking revenge.

Don't expect masterpieces of literature here but I'm confident that many of you will consider yourselves entertained by "The Blue Religion," and some of you may find a new writer to follow.

## The Blade Itself

By Marcus Sakey  
Reviewed by Dennis Bianchi

I picked up this paperback on the basis of two recommendations: It was getting great reviews in the trade magazines as an outstanding first novel and secondly, the author took the title from the ancient Greek writer Homer, who wrote: "The blade itself invites to violence." As the book depicts, nothing much has changed about the truth of that sentence from thousands of years ago.

The setting for the novel is Chicago. The premise is that two young tough-guys from the South Side get in over their heads on a burglary gone really wrong. The protagonist, Danny Carter, gets away before the police arrive to arrest Danny's partner, the volatile, violent Evan. Evan goes to prison. Danny goes straight, or at least tries to. Seven years later, Danny is a manager for a construction company, admired by both his boss and crew members, but here comes Evan, fresh from prison, and everything begins to change.

Evan believes Danny owes him for never mentioning Danny's name while he did his prison time. He has concocted a crime that Danny wants no part of. The problem is Evan has no moral boundaries, no ethical reasoning and he maneuvers Danny into a plot to kidnap the son of Danny's boss. In spite of trying to figure a lawful and rational way out, Danny comes to the conclusion that the job has to be done to get rid of Evan, to get on with his life with his long-standing girlfriend, to live the straight life. The author, Sakey, is convincing in his dialogue and at setting the scene. Chicago becomes part of the novel, cops are skeptical and real and the story moves along at a great pace. The story asks moral questions of a difficult nature: What are you willing to do to keep what is important to you? How does a person deal with unbounded evil and not become evil himself? I found the ending a bit too staged, too ready for television or a movie, but the book was good enough to make me want to read other books by Marcus Sakey.



## POA MAIL



### With gratitude...

Dear POA —

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Gina Wood Relief Fund Raffle, that I chaired. But, in particular, I would like to thank all the men and women of the San Francisco Police Department for the generous and gracious donations.

No man is an island and that is very true when it came to this cause. I could not have done it without you all. Many of you either gave monetarily, or donated prizes, or assisted me with your time, and or had contacts.

I also want to take this moment to thank some of the people who made this event happened, who I worked closely with, and relied upon to make this event happen.

First, there was Bob Massola, who knew the printer, who printed 6000 tickets, and gave me the Virgin Airlines tickets gratis, and coached me on putting on such an event. Thanks Bob. Then there were all the people at BALEAF like Robin Mathews, Mary Dunnigan, Bill Darr, for the use of their tax-id number, and of course Marilyn Rosekind who volunteers and worked so hard on all the letters. Thanks so much. Of course I really can't say enough good things about our POA, and I really mean it. Marty Halloran, Kevin Martin, and Tony Montoya, and Gary Delagnes, who without pause gave money, support, time, and the use of the POA building without hesitation. God Bless you for your help. All the POA reps, and individual officers, who got the word out, and collected large sums of money. People like Rose and Dave Smith, Dennis Callaghan, Tessa Denatti, Mike Rodriguez, and all the PSAs, my eternal thanks to you all. I can't list you all, but you know what you did, and for that, I truly thank you for all your help. I would also like to recognize all the people who took the time to attend the party at the POA Building. People like Deputy Chief Tabac, Capt. Roth, and Capt. Jackson, Lt. Kerr, Robert Ng, and many, many more. Thank you.

Although the fundraiser was very successful, it was never about money. It was about letting a fellow officer, and his daughter know that in tough times they are not alone. I can say that it gave great comfort and lifted the spirits of the Wood's family knowing so many people cared in this difficult time. Gina told me herself that she was overwhelmed, and could not express how thankful she was for all of your kindness.

We can all take some comfort knowing that in times of trouble, the men and women who wear the blue are there for us all. We raised \$58,600.

Thank you,  
Officer Robert Canedo

Dear SFPOA —

On May 29, 2008, my partner Officer David Nastari and I came across Luis Arriaga-Lucero seconds after he had been a victim of hit and run driver. Luis was lying in the middle of Turk and Steiner, suffering from a badly broken left leg. Luis is only nine years old! Incredibly, he did not shed a tear through out this painful ordeal. His only concern was for us

to call his mother. He was transported to San Francisco General Hospital for treatment.

The next day, Officer Nastari and I visited Luis in the hospital. Luis had surgery to put screws in his leg and he will need to use a wheelchair for a few weeks. He will continue his recovery with the use of crutches. We brought him some police items such as SFPOA beanies and stickers to help cheer him up. I spoke to his mother. She is a poor, self-employed, single mother. She was in tears thinking about how she was going to support her family and pay for Luis' medical treatment.

Officer Nastari and I requested that the San Francisco Police Officer's Association step forward and financially help this family out in their time of need. The Community Service Committee wrote out a check for \$1,500.00 for Luis and his family. My sons also got involved and asked their classmates at St. Agnes School in Concord to help out. They were able to raise money from a lemonade sale and donated some of their First Communion money. The children also donated books and games that Luis can use during his recovery. We presented these items to Luis and his mother. They were very happy and thankful.

I would like to thank the members of the SFPOA who stepped forward through the Community Service Committee to help out this family. If anyone has any books or other items that a nine-year-old boy would like you can send them to me at the Narcotics Division.

John Keane  
San Francisco Police Department  
Narcotics Division

Dear POA —

As a child, what you meant to me was something mysterious and magical and it touched my heart. Now that I am grown, I just want to send you a million flowers because what you do is amazing.

Thank you for all the gifts and cards over the years — every b-day and x-mas. Thank you for the gift of receiving all those Polaroid pictures while I was in the hospital in 2000.

Thank you for coming when I needed a helping hand.

Thank you for realizing that I am passionate about art and offering me the idea of the Art Academy. Thank you for the opportunity to meet with its president to receive a scholarship.

Thank you to all of you. Thank you Steve Johnson. Thank you for all you do. It makes a difference.

God Bless  
Jolene Blessing

P.S. I still have a kangaroo I keep on my bed that I received from you when I was eight.

Dear POA —

My heartfelt thank you to all involved in the plaque and its dedication on May 6th at Co. H for Sgt. Philip J. Lee, Jr. #1473. The plaque is beautiful! The garden is remarkable, too. Phil would really love the references "old people, kids, and dogs."

Again, my deep appreciation to Asst. Chief Lynch, Capt. Chignell,

Capt. O'Leary, Lt. Slade, Off. Anna Lee, Off. Wendy Frisk (AKA-the Green Thumb!), Off. Kevin Martin and the POA for supplying the great food at the reception.

I am sorry if I have forgotten anybody. You will always be Phil and my Angels. God Bless.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Lee

SFPOA—

On behalf of my grandfather, Chuck, and the rest of the family, I would like to thank you for the beautiful floral spray that was sent for my granny. My granny would have loved it — her favorite color was hot pink and this arrangement really represented that. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

Thank you,  
Lauren Goldberg

To Our Friends at the POA —

Thank you so very much for the lovely flowers and kind thoughts.

Sincerely,  
Angela Abbey and Family

Dear POA —

On behalf of my mother and family, I would like to sincerely thank Lt. Bob Armanino, Off. Matt Gardner and all the other Solo's that participated in the escort for my father's funeral mass. My father always had great respect and admiration for the police department and the escort was a great tribute to him and my family. I would also like to thank Capt. Casciato and the members of Northern Station along with all the members of the YSU unit for their support during this difficult time. The San Francisco Police Department is truly a great family to be part of.

Thank you  
Matt Faliano  
Co. E

Dear POA,

On behalf of our family, I want to express our sincere thanks for the kind words of comfort and beautiful flowers you provided following the passing of our father, retired SFPD Sgt/Insp. Lawrence Kelly. Special thanks to Ret. Lt. John Carlin, Lt. Jim Spillane, Insp. Alan Honniball, Ofc. Kevin Martin, Ofc. Pat Burke and the SFPD Honor Guard Unit with Sgt. Bob Totah, Ofc. Charlie Ellis and Ofc. Annette Carrier. Thank you as well to the SFPD solo Unit and members of the General Work Detail. To the Burglary Detail, thank you for the beautiful floral piece. Your support was comforting; we will forever cherish your friendships.

Sincerely,  
The Kelly Family  
Mike Kelly – General Work  
Jim Kelly – Burglary

To The Bay Area Law Enforcement Assistance Fund Staff

I would like to thank you so much for your contribution at the time of my sister's untimely death. All of you were a great help.

God bless you all.  
Officer Anderson

### Officers to be recognized...

Dear SFPOA —

I am pleased to announce the Golden Badge Foundation has selected Officers Scott Biggs, Chris Oshita, Kevin O'Leary and Daniel Kroos of the San Francisco Police Department as recipients of the 2008 Golden Badge Award for Police Heroism.

These officers, without regard for their personal safety, responded to the San Francisco Zoo on a call of tigers having escaped from their enclosure. The officers performed a search of the zoo grounds, locating two victims. They continued their search in an attempt to save others who may have been harmed. Their actions were at the highest level of law enforcement dedication.

We will be presenting Officers Biggs, Oshita, O'Leary and Kroos with their awards on Friday, October 24, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Golden Badge Awards Ceremony at the Irvine Marriott Hotel, 1800 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, California 92612.

We hope you will attend the awards ceremony to recognize these officers and all of the award recipients for their service to law enforcement and the community.

Sincerely,  
Roger Mayberry, President  
Golden Badge Foundation

### DROP information...

June 10, 2008

Ms. Clare M. Murphy  
Executive Director  
SF Employees' Retirement System

Dear Ms. Murphy:

As a CPA, police officers have requested tax clarification from me, on what options will be available to lump sum payments they receive once they have completed the DROP program. Section A8.910(a), of the DROP proposition mandated by the voters, states that upon termination of the DROP a member shall be paid a lump sum or: "that balance shall be paid as a direct rollover into a qualified retirement plan." Consequently, if an officer accepts a lump sum check, they will immediately be liable for tax on that amount. If the officer options to roll their lump sum payment to a qualified plan, they will postpone taxation until they access their money. Police officers have also asked me whether they will be able to transfer their lump sum DROP distribution into their 457 Plan account (deferred comp). Treasury Regulation 1.4571-1 states: "Section 457 provides rules for nongualified deferred compensation plans." Thus, per the Secretary of the Treasury, deferred compensation plans are nonqualified, and in our case, not eligible to accept an officer's lump sum DROP amounts without conflicting with the proposition passed by the San Francisco voters. Retiring DROP officers will have to open an IRA at a financial institution and direct their lump sum payment to a qualified account.

Very truly yours,  
Lou Barberini, C.P.A.  
San Francisco Police Department

## Thank you...

Dear Mr. Delagnes —

Thank you for forwarding the correspondence on behalf of the California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations, supporting Jim Collins for a judicial appointment.

The recommendation will receive careful consideration when the application comes up for review.

Sincerely,

**Sharon Majors-Lewis**  
Judicial Appointments Secretary  
Office of the Governor

Dear Friends —

Thank you so much for supporting Sunset Youth Services and helping our third annual signature fundraising event "Sunset by the Bay" become a huge success by raising over \$100,000! Proceeds from this event are directly benefiting more than 600 youth in after-school summer programs at the Youth Center.

Thank you again.

**Dawn Stueckle**  
Executive Director  
Sunset Youth Services

Dear Gary —

Thank you for serving as a speaker for the Leadership San Francisco (LSF) class of 2008 on May 15. The session on Workforce Housing was extremely successful and your participation was a valuable part of the day's experience.

Again, Gary, thank you for your interest and significant contributions to Leadership San Francisco.

Sincerely,

**Dianne Easton**  
Executive Director  
Leadership San Francisco

Dear SFPOA—

Thank you so much for the donation you just sent to Bay Area Women's and Children's Center.

We do so many different kinds of programs and services for low-income children and families. Your donation will be a great help to our work.

Warmly,

**Midge Wilson**  
Executive Director  
Bay Area Women's and Children's Center

Dear SFPOA —

On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers and especially the youth participants of the San Francisco Police Activities' League, I would like to thank you for SFPOA's generous donation of \$15,000.

This year our golf tournament raised more than \$30,000 enabling us to continue to provide affordable, safe, healthy activities for San Francisco kids. Boxing, our newest program in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood has been up and

running for 5 months now. This program is providing a safe and healthy space for kids who live in the one of the highest crime areas in the City. Your support will directly benefit this program along with SFPAL's other seven sports and leadership programs.

As you know, the SFPAL serve's more than 5,000 children and youth annually by providing safe and structured programs that channel their energy while building self-esteem and confidence. Each year hundreds of volunteer coaches act as mentors to our kids and help them realize the value of being part of a team.

Sincerely,

**Rick Bruce**  
SFPAL Board President

Dear Friends —

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the staff and youngsters of the Northern California Shriners Hospitals for Children, I wish to express sincere appreciation for your generous contribution.

Please be assured of our gratitude for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely yours,

**Margaret Bryan**  
Administrator  
Shriners Hospital for Children

Dear SFPOA —

Thank you for your generous purchase of 8 tickets for a total \$480. The market value of the event is \$30 per person, for a total of \$240 for 8. The remaining portion will be submitted as a donation to Project Open Hand. Your support helps us raise critical funds for Project Open Hand's life sustaining meal and nutrition services.

Thank you again, for your commitment to our mission and for contributing to the success of another Dessert First.

Sincerely,

**Jared Scherer**  
Director of Special Events  
Project Open Hand

**370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group**  
370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, New Al Muthana Air Base, Baghdad, Iraq

1 July 2008

**Memorandum For: San Francisco Police Officers' Association**

**From: 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, Commander**

**Subject: Letter of Appreciation**

On behalf of the Airmen on the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory



Squadron I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the San Francisco Police Officers' Association for the pins that were sent last week here to Baghdad. It is great to know that we are in your thoughts and prayers. Each of the 47 members of my squadron received a pin.

Our job here at New Al Mutana Air Base is to advise, train, and teach the Iraqi Air Force the operational utilization, maintenance, and logistical support of the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft. I am happy to report that the Iraqis have made great strides in the three years we have been working with them. They continue to progress towards the goal of independent and self sufficient combat tactical airlift operations.

Thank you again!

**Mark A. Brunworth,**  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Dear POA —

Thank you for your participation in the 32nd Annual Penny Pitch to benefit St. Anthony Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge your \$400 team sponsorship and your donation of \$1,000 for an inside cover greeting in the event brochure.

Each year we are humbled by the community's enthusiasm in helping us celebrate this quintessentially San Francisco event. Over a hundred participants gathered at Joey & Eddie's in North Beach for our 32nd year of pitching pennies to help those in need. It is heartening to see the way individuals, businesses, and community groups from all over the Bay Area unite to raise funds for St. Anthony Foundation.

As you know, St. Anthony's offers a network of supportive services providing food, shelter, health care, recovery services, and job training to the poor and homeless of San Francisco. Each day we help thousands of guests take life changing steps towards overcoming poverty and homelessness, increasing self-sufficiency, and improving their health and well-being. Your support is a testament to the compassion

and generosity that makes this work possible.

We are proud to walk with our guests in a spirit of hope and solidarity. On behalf of the St. Anthony Community, we thank you for joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,

**Fr. John Hardin, OFM**  
Executive Director  
St. Anthony Foundation

Dear Friends —

Our St. Anthony-Immaculate Conception School is grateful for the generous \$400 gift to support our Car show and Talent show fundraising events.

Our school family appreciates the support from our friends in the community who affirm our commitment to educating the children of the inner city as we have done for the past 114 years.

With grateful hearts,

**Sister Carolyn Marie Monahan,**  
O.P.  
Principal  
Saint Anthony-Immaculate Conception School

Dear SFPOA —

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, Department of Emergency Management and Division of Communications, please accept this letter of thanks and allow us to express our sincere appreciation for your generosity in support of our annual "National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week."

Through your generosity, we were able to not only honor our Public Safety Telecommunicators for their continuous hard work, but also to hold a luncheon and give prizes that made this event more exciting. Your donation of \$500.00 was greatly appreciated and incredibly generous.

Thank you, again. Your commitment to the Public Safety Telecommunicators is appreciated by the City family.

Very truly yours,

**Vicki Hennessy**  
Acting Executive Director  
San Francisco Department of Emergency Management

**AB** Anne Bisek, Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Office: 39198 State Street • Fremont  
Phone: 510-797-4911

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# China Travel — The Time is Now!

By Jim Hennessy,  
Retired SFPD

You may have seen my advertisement in this publication for my next trip to China scheduled for October 26th through November 9th. I was lucky enough to begin planning this trip some time ago and was able to lock in the best prices possible. Many of your friends and acquaintances have traveled with me in the past and can attest to the high quality and value of my tours to China. This tour will be limited to 30 people. As I write this article, 22 have signed up so far. Many of them are current and retired members of the SFPD. I have few more spots available for you to join us on this trip of a lifetime.

and now is the time.

Here are some of the reasons:  
The earthquake did not affect the areas we will visit. China is a very big country. There is no doubt the earthquake in Sichuan Province was a devastating event and the Chinese people will be recovering for years to come, however, we will be visiting Beijing, Shanghai, Xia'an, Chongqing and taking a cruise on the Yangtze River.  
We will be in China soon after the Summer Olympics. I was in China in February and got a chance to see how the government has been preparing for the Olympics, especially in Beijing. All the famous landmarks have been restored to their former glory and magnificence. The Olympic venues are adding an additional architectural and



34 years with the SFPD...now a guide in China?!

post Olympics, will look its best and will even be more prepared and happy to accommodate visitors.

I was able to lock in airfares and some of the finest luxury accommodations at the best available prices. One and one half years ago one U.S. dollar was valued at 7.8 Chinese Yuan. Today the rate is one to 6.8. As the value of the dollar decreases, this trip will not continue to present the affordable option it does today.

The Yangtze River Cruise in the middle of the itinerary is unforgettable. This unforgettable three-day cruise aboard the refurbished river cruiser, President No.2, provides rooms

with outside staterooms, meals and tours at each stop and always receives high marks from tour participants.

After 16 trips, this will most likely be the last trip I organize to China. During those trips I have become an expert about the country and developed a great relationship with the in-country guides who are the most experienced and knowledgeable while providing the best service available.

So, if you are interested in seeing China, please take a look at the advertisement in this edition for a further description of the trip and do not be afraid to contact me with any questions. I will be happy to talk to you whether you sign up or not. But please do so at your earliest opportunity. I am concerned that many of you will want to join us after you see the Summer Olympics on television in August, but by then, it may be too late!

I can be reached at (415) 242-1489 or you can email at [jashennessy@comcast.net](mailto:jashennessy@comcast.net).



John Vannucci and Paul Maniscalco "blending in" at Tian'anmen Square



Retired member Kelvin Brown, "Mr. Tax Man" at the Forbidden City in Beijing. As they say, "Timing is everything" social dynamic to the City. Beijing,

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For more information, or to schedule an individual appointment, call your ING Representative at 415-364-2016 or 1-888-822-1211. Our local San Francisco Office is located at 1 Front Street (at Market St.), Suite 1425.

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Carol M. Keane, CPA  
wife of John Keane,  
Narcotics Division, SFPD

## CHINA 2008 & YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> TO NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

HOSTED BY JIM HENNESSY SFPD RETIRED

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For more information call me at Sayang Holidays  
(415) 986-1293, or at (415) 242-1489  
or contact me via email at [jashennessy@comcast.net](mailto:jashennessy@comcast.net)



If a picture is worth 1000 words, here are that many thanks to all those who made this years Take Your Child to Work Day successful. Although I sent a letter to the editor last month, I wanted to send this picture and specifically thank Laura Knight and Kat McClellan. Without their help and countless others, the day could not have happened. We are already starting to make plans for next year's event and invite all members to consider helping or bring their children for a great day. Thanks again.  
— Bob Ford

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# “Dusting” Fad Killing Teens

Submitted to the Journal  
by Commander John Murphy

First, I'm going to tell you a little about me and my family. My name is Jeff. I am a Police Officer for a city that is known nationwide for its crime rate. We have a lot of gangs and drugs. At one point we were # 2 in the nation in homicides per capita. I also have a police K-9 named Thor. He was certified in drugs and general duty. He retired at 3 years old because he was shot in the line of duty. He lives with us now and I still train with him because he likes it. I always liked the fact that there was no way to bring drugs into my house. Thor wouldn't allow it. He would tell on you. The reason I say this is so you understand that I know about drugs. I have taught in schools about drugs. My wife asks all our kids at least once a week if they used any drugs. Makes them promise they won't.

I like building computers occasionally and started building a new one in February 2005. I also was working on some of my older computers. They were full of dust so on one of my trips to the computer store I bought a 3-pack of DUST OFF. Dust Off is a can of compressed air to blow dust off a computer. A few weeks later when I went to use them they were all used. I talked to my kids and my two sons both said they

had used them on their computer and messing around with them. I yelled at them for wasting the 10 dollars I paid for them. On February 28, I went back to the computer store. They didn't have the 3-pack that I had bought on sale so I bought a single jumbo can of Dust Off. I went home and set it down beside my computer.

On March 1st I left for work at 10 p.m. At 11 p.m. my wife went down and kissed Kyle good night. At 5:30 a.m. the next morning Kathy went downstairs to wake Kyle up for school, before she left for work. He was sitting up in bed with his legs crossed and his head leaning over. She called to him a few times to get up. He didn't move. He would sometimes tease her like this and pretend he fell back asleep. He was never easy to get up. She went in and shook his arm. He fell over. He was pale white and had the straw from the Dust Off can coming out of his mouth. He had the new can of Dust Off in his hands. Kyle was dead.

I am a police officer and I had never heard of this. My wife is a nurse and she had never heard of this. We later found out from the coroner, after the autopsy, that only the propellant from the can of Dust Off was in his system. No other drugs. Kyle had died between midnight and 1 a.m.

I found out that using Dust Off

is being done mostly by kids ages 9 through 15. They even have a name for it. It's called dusting. A take off from the Dust Off name. It gives them a slight high for about 10 seconds. It makes them dizzy. A boy who lives down the street from us showed Kyle how to do this about a month before. Kyle showed his best friend. Told him it was cool and it couldn't hurt you. It's just compressed air. It can't hurt you. His, best friend said no.

### Kyle's death

Kyle was wrong. It's not just compressed air. It also contains a propellant. I think its R2. It's a refrigerant like what is used in your refrigerator. It is a heavy gas. Heavier than air. When you inhale it, it fills your lungs and keeps the good air, with oxygen, out. That's why you feel dizzy, buzzed. It decreases the oxygen to your brain, to your heart. Kyle was right. It can't hurt you. IT KILLS YOU. The horrible part about this is there is no warning. There is no level that kills you. It's not cumulative or an overdose; it can just go randomly, terribly wrong. Roll the dice and if your number comes up you die. IT'S NOT AN OVERDOSE. It's Russian roulette. You don't die later. Or not feel good and say I've had too much. You usually die as you're breathing it in. If not, you die within 2 seconds of finishing "the hit." That's why the straw was still in Kyle's mouth when he died. Why his eyes were still open.

The experts want to call this huffing. The kids don't believe it's huffing. As adults we tend to lump many things together. But it doesn't fit here. And that's why it's more accepted. There is no chemical reaction, no strong odor. It doesn't follow the huffing signals. Kyle complained a few days before he died of his tongue hurting. It probably did. The propellant causes frostbite. If I had only known.

Its easy to say hey, it's my life and I'll do what I want. But it isn't. Others are always affected. This has forever

changed our family's life. I have a hole in my heart and soul that can never be fixed. The pain is so immense I can't describe it. There's nowhere to run from it. I cry all the time and I don't ever cry. I do what I'm supposed to do but I don't really care. My kids are messed up. One won't talk about it. The other will only sleep in our room at night. And my wife, I can't even describe how bad she is taking this. I thought we were safe because of Thor. I thought we were safe because we knew about drugs and talked to our kids about them.

After Kyle died another story came out. A Probation Officer went to the school system next to ours to speak with a student. While there he found a student using Dust Off in the bathroom. This student told him about another student who also had some in his locker. This is a rather affluent school system. They will tell you they don't have a drug problem there. They don't even have a dare or plus program there. So rather than tell everyone about this "new" way of getting high they found, they hid it. The probation officer told the media after Kyle's death and they, the school, then admitted to it. I know that if they would have told the media and I had heard, it wouldn't have been in my house.

We need to get this out of our homes and school computer labs.

Using Dust Off isn't new and some "professionals" do know about it. It just isn't talked about much, except by the kids. They know about it.

April 2nd was 1 month since Kyle died. April 5th would have been his 15th birthday. And every weekday I catch myself sitting on the living room couch at 2:30 in the afternoon and waiting to see him get off the bus. I know Kyle is in heaven but I can't help but wonder if I died and went to Hell.

— Jeff

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# Sports



## NICK'S NOTES

By Nick Shihadeh,  
Journal Sports Editor

### Southern And Northern Are Softball Champs

**CHECK IT OUT:** The 2008 SF Police Softball season came to an end on Tues. June 10th when both the A and B Division championships took place at Silver Terrace. The Northern Bulldogs brought respectability back to their station when they won the B Division final in a defensive battle against the Tenderloin Rats by a score of 5-3.

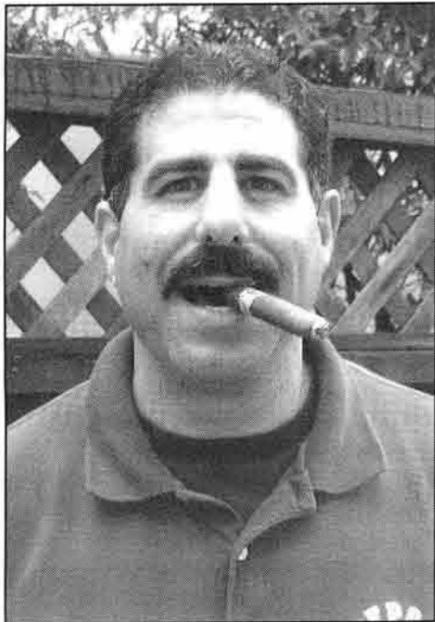
To get to the championship, Northern first had to get by a scrappy Airport Bureau team in the first round of the playoffs. It was an exciting affair that went back and forth with the Bulldogs able to edge Airport by a score of 14-13. While the Bulldogs looked forward to their second round match-up with Inlgeside Station, the Airport Bureau had to reassess what went wrong.

Airport Admin.'s **John "The Astronaut" Glynn** had his own thoughts on the matter and wasn't afraid to express them emphatically. Concerning pitcher **Nick Allen** missing the game, Glynn was quoted as saying, "I understand commitments to your kid's school, but it was the biggest game of the year and he should've been there." The always controversial Glynn then went on to say: "In addition, **Chris da Roza** should stick with skiing and **Joe Finigan** should stick to golf." Aside from Glynn (aka: "The Polish Rifle") and his meddling comments, I think that we could've used help from college baseball standout **Tom Buckley** (Airport Admin.). He played ball for College of San Mateo and UC Santa Barbara back in the early 70's, and I'm sure he could've contributed to the Airport playoff cause. Airport obviously has to regroup in order to be competitive next season.

Moving on to the second round, the Bulldogs had no problem with Inlgeside beating them by a score of 16-6 and securing a spot in the final. They waited to hear that their opponent would be the Tenderloin Rats who are a scrappy bunch as well. The Rats first had to beat Richmond/Taraval in eight innings by a score of 7-6; they then upset the top seeded Central Station Diners in the second round by a score of 8-3.

The Bulldogs vs the Rats game wasn't an exciting affair — Northern took an early 5-0 lead and just held Tenderloin to 3-runs the rest of the way. Congratulations are in order to Northern managers **Sean Rogers** and **Tim Flaherty** for leading their team to the playoffs, through the playoffs, and to the B Division championship.

The Tenderloin Rats should be congratulated as well as they never made it into a championship game in their history. Co-managers **Dennis O'Mahoney** and **Mark Obrochta**



should also be proud of finally earning a trophy on their own (be it second place), instead of stealing one at the banquet like they did many times in the past. In addition, **Brian Philpott** told me that he hadn't been getting much press lately and his grandmother missed seeing his name in the *Journal*; so, I want to mention that Brian Philpott was part of the Tenderloin Rats club that took second place in the B Division of the SF Police Softball League.

In the A Division, Southern Station overcame many odds to first get to and then win the championship game over The Inspectors by a score of 21-6. It started with Southern having to play and defeat the Bayview Pitbulls in an extra game to see who would be the fourth seed in the playoffs. That was by a score of 6-2 with Southern next having to play the top seeded Park Islanders. This became an upset when Southern defeated the Islanders easily 14-4.

Southern's opponent in the championship game was The Inspectors team who rallied during the second half of the regular season just to make the playoffs. The key was **Matt Hanley** coming back from his respite of department softball and helping this club tremendously — he especially led the way during The Inspectors' playoff match-up against the very strong GTF/Narcotics. Hanley hit a big 3-run homer in the seventh inning to help seal the victory 15-11 and exclaimed "I nailed it baby!" when he got back to the dugout.

The magic for Hanley and the rest of The Inspectors didn't carry into the final against Southern as the game was a laugher with a final score of 21-6. Congratulations to **Marc Marquez** and the rest of the Southern Station team on a very successful season. As far as The Inspectors are concerned, I would like to give Kudos to manager **Andy Ting** for their second place finish in the A Division, but I'm not sure if I should. Apparently, rumor has it that he was so upset about not winning it all, that Ting allowed the second place trophy to be easily stolen at the Softball Banquet that evening. I'll hopefully have more details soon.

### Softball Banquet Awards

The SF Police Softball Banquet took place down in Stern Grove the evening of June 10th — it was a nice gathering of almost ninety participants to help celebrate the season coming to an end. Four memorial softball awards were given out that night and they were very much deserved. The first plaque given out was the Mike O' Brien Softball Award for longevity and participation in department softball. This was presented to a retired officer out of Richmond Station who has played in the league for over forty years: **Bill Decarsky**. Decarsky is still pitching for Richmond/Taraval and I think will still be doing it for years to come.

The Layne Amiot Award is for most inspirational, and this year like last two ballplayers received plaques. Both members of the Central Diners, **Ed Garcia** and **Mike Norman** (retired) were the recipients. These guys have both been gentlemen on and off the field for many many years, and it hasn't gone unnoticed.

The Brian Olcomendy Manager of the Year award was gladly given to Bayview's **Erik Solares** — he's done such a good job the last four years since taking over the Pitbulls after Isaac Espinoza was killed in the line of duty. This was a proud moment for Solares and the rest of the Pitbull club.

Speaking of Isaac Espinoza, the Most Valuable Player Award named after him was the next and final award to be presented. The MVP for this year in department softball was **Kevin Worrell** who is also a member of the Central Diners. Playing an excellent shortstop all season long and hitting with power to all fields as well, Worrell led his team to be the top seed in the playoffs and was the obvious choice. Congrats goes to all award winners that evening.

I want to thank the POA for sponsoring this fine league as they do

every year. I next want to thank **Glenn Ortega** for helping me run the league as co-commissioner — he did a tremendous job helping me sort out many controversies during the season. I want to mention National Trophy (Tom and Jerry) for doing a good job on the trophies and plaques. I next want to thank **Ron Dumont** and his staff for doing a great job catering the banquet like he always does year in and year out. I finally want to thank **Rafael "Raffy" Labutan** as I really appreciate him for taking and providing excellent pics as usual of the championship games and of the banquet.

### Important Dates And Events

Upcoming events to take note of include the next "mixed martial arts" night of fights that will take place at Kezar Pavilion on Fri. July 18th and will feature Bayview's **Bryan Lujan** in one of the matches (tickets are available at VirtualBoxOffice.com). The Emerald Society Golf Tournament will take place on Mon. Aug. 18th at the Lake Merced Country Club (see the flyer in this same sports section for more details). The POA Golf Tourney is slated for Mon. Sept. 22nd at the Marin County Country Club; look for details for that well run tournament coming out shortly. Finally, the Isaac Espinoza Memorial Softball Tournament is being planned for the first weekend of October in The City — more details of this event will appear in next month's issue.

.....That's all for now....So See Ya next month....

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# 2008 SFPD Softball Championship

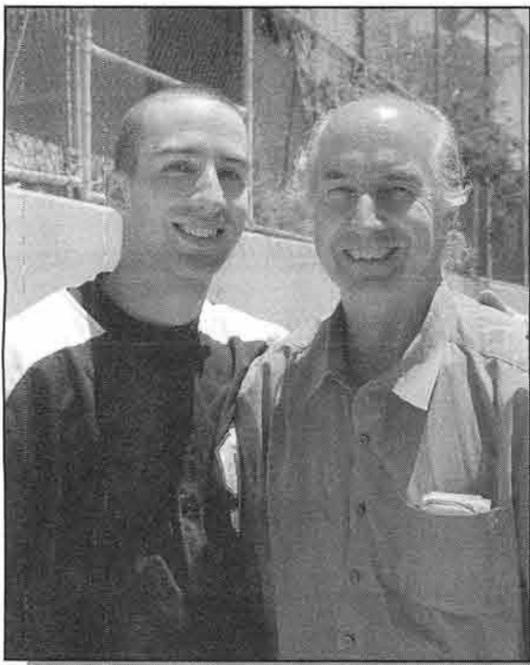


Northern Bulldogs: B Division Champs



Southern Station Champ Nelson Ramos

PHOTOS BY RAFAEL LAUBTAN,  
RICHMOND STATION



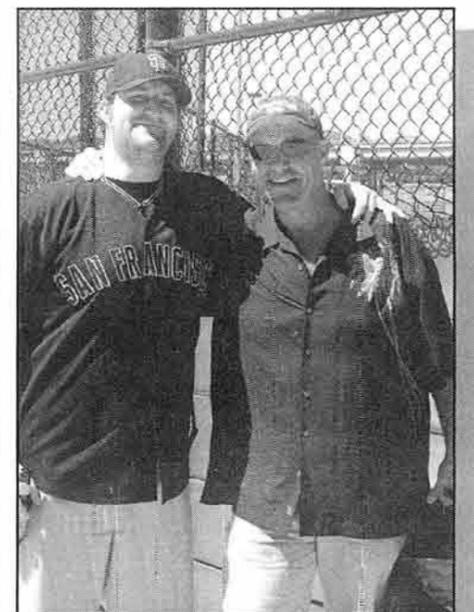
Southern Station Champ Mike Tursi with his dad John Tursi (Narcotics)



Tenderloin Rats: B Division second place



Southern Station: A Division Champs



Northern Bulldog Champ Doug Tennenbaum with his dad Carl T. (Central Station)



Above: Friends from different teams, L to R, are Brian Philpott, Joe Fischer, Mike Flynn, Dennis OMahony and Tim Kiely with Bud Clinton in front.



Co-commissioner Glenn Ortega doing a fine job umpiring one of the championship games



Right: The Inspectors – A Division second place (Get over it Andy).

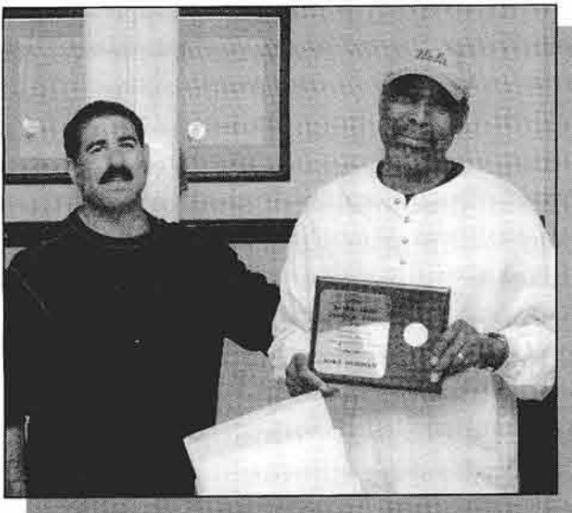
## 2008 SFPD Softball Banquet



L to R Kevin Worrell of Central Station (Isaac Espinoza MVP Award); Mike Norman, retired, Central Station (Layne Amiot Most Inspirational Award), Bill Decarsky, retired, Richmond Station (Mike O'Brien Longevity Award), Ed Garcia of Central Station (Brian Olcomendy Manager of the Year Award)



Commish Nick Shihadeh with Ed Garcia



Commish Nick Shihadeh with Mike Norman



Northern Bulldogs A Division Champions.

*Son of SFPD Lt. Larry Biel*

# Local Swimmer to Compete for Olympic Slot

Staff Report

Clayton native and De La Salle graduate Matt Biel will write the final chapter of his swimming career at the United States Olympic Swimming Trials in Omaha, Nebraska.

Biel began competing seventeen years ago on the Dana Hills Swim Team. He has enjoyed personal and team success at every level. His teams have won city and county championships, North Coast Section Championships and NCAA titles. He was the first De La Salle swimmer to win an individual event at the North Coast Section Championship Meet, where he won two titles in 2004 and led the team to back-to-back NCS titles. Later that year he competed in his first Olympic Trials swimming the 1500-meter freestyle as a seventeen year old.

This time around he has qualified for the Olympic Trials in three events; the 200, 400 and 1500-meter freestyle. He is looking forward to competing one last time against many of the world's top swimmers. Although a long shot to make Team USA, Biel hopes to final in at least one event. Biel said, "Being in the top eight at the Olympic Trials would be a nice way to end my career."

In his career Biel traveled across the country and as far away as Sydney, Australia as a member of U.S.A. National Junior Team. "I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunities that swimming has given me. I have been guided by some of the best coaches in the world."

Although he may no longer swim



competitively, he plans to keep swimming a part of his life. "I am happiest when I'm in the water," he said.

In March, Biel culminated his collegiate swimming career winning an NCAA National Championship as a member of the University of Arizona Men's Swim Team. After more second and third place finishes than any program, the perennial powerhouse won its first title. He helped the Wildcats complete an undefeated dual meet season and attain a mid-season number one ranking with individual wins in the 1000 yard freestyle against Stanford, Cal, Arizona State, Washington, USC, and Northeastern. "Swimming for the University of Arizona was the best experience of my life. The coaches and team are unbelievable."

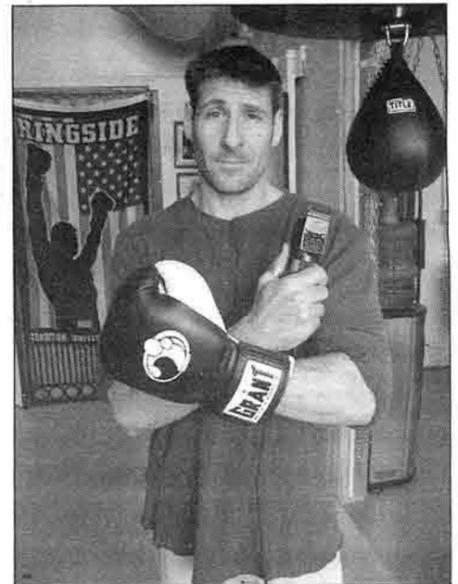
Biel will graduate next spring with a degree in Communications and Business. He plans on returning to the Bay Area and begin a second successful career at the old age of 22.

# Michael The Boxer "Cuts" Deals for POA Members

"There are two things that cops need," says Michael Onello. "They need a quick and easy way to stay in shape. And they need to look sharp."

Onello can back up that statement. He's the owner of Michael The Boxer located in the SFPD's Southern Police District. It is a small business that offers a true "Only in San Francisco" experience — it's a boxing gym and a barbershop — all under one roof.

Onello is both the boxing instructor and the barber and his record for each is impressive. As an amateur boxer, he went 28-2; has trained an Olympic contender; published two books on the sport; and twice has participated in the training camp for World Heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis. As a third-generation barber, Onello has just under 20 years experience and has owned three shops in Miami and Sarasota, Florida.



## Free Shaves in July and Discounts for POA

Throughout this summer Onello is offering POA members a 20% discount on haircuts and boxing lessons. Starting July 1, officers can get a haircut for \$16, and a 30-minute boxing lesson for \$24.00.

As an added bonus for POA members, Onello is offering free straight razor shaves during Forth of July week for San Francisco officers. "You have to feel it to believe it," says Onello. He suggests you call ahead at (415) 425-3814 to schedule an appointment.

## "Get Fit, Not Hit"

Training at Michael The Boxer begins with boxing conditioning program that is fun and easy to learn. It's designed to tone and strengthen your entire body. From lesson one, you'll learn stance and movement, defensive tactics and a simple method of wrapping your hands to protect them during training, says Onello. Students quickly learn the basic punches — the jab, straight right, uppercut and hook — and practice them to increase their punching power, speed and accuracy. Onello trains both men and women and class sizes are kept small, usually one or two students at a time.

The boxing program developed by Onello is a bit different than you

might expect. "This is a personal development program, designed around your health goals. I use boxing and Yoga as the physical and mental means to empower your life and accomplish your health objectives," says Onello.

"It's not about sparring. It's about physical fitness and flexibility. Many of my students will never spar. That's why "Get Fit - Not Hit" is the gym's motto."

## Look Good, Feel Good

As a barber, Onello's philosophy is to pride himself on attention to detail. If you're looking for a fast haircut, I am not the barber for you, he explains. "When you're in my chair, time is of no consequence to me — only the finished product."

His straight razor shaves could possibly be unique in San Francisco. Onello's special oils, hot towels and soothing lather are the hallmarks of a shaving experience that harkens back to a slower time when it took dexterity and precision to produce the well-groomed man.

Onello invites POA members to come and check out his unique small business. "I'm proud to be able to offer San Francisco's finest a discount on looking good and feeling good."

Michael The Boxer is located at 96 Lafayette Street in San Francisco and is open Tuesday through Saturday. Appointments for barbering or boxing can be made by calling Onello at (415) 425-3814. Check it out on the web at [www.MichaelTheBoxer.com](http://www.MichaelTheBoxer.com)

## Attention All SFPD and SFFD Members!!

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## SFPD Volunteers Needed for 42nd International Children's Games

The 42nd International Children's Games are coming to San Francisco July 11-14, 2008. This is a large international sporting event endorsed by the International Olympic Committee with a large amount of media coverage. There will be over 50 countries competing in various events at Golden Gate Park and USF.

Off-duty SFPD Volunteers are needed to help out with security. The Security Chairman, Sgt. Bob Del Torre (Retired) will be coordinating the off

duty SFPD personnel. He needs 10 off-duty SFPD volunteers per day.

8 hour days for 4 days or as many days as you are able to commit.

If you are interested in volunteering, simply call the International Children's Games office at 415-989-0070 for more information and visit our website at [www.sficg2008.com](http://www.sficg2008.com)

Thanks,

**Scott McRoberts**  
Chief Operating Officer  
San Francisco ICG 2008

*Boise, Idaho, August 16 – 23*

## Western States Police and Fire Games



The 2008 Western States Police and Fire Games will take place in Boise, Idaho from August 16-23. The Western States Police and Fire Games is a multi-sport Olympic style athletic program, held annually, to promote physical and mental well being of professionals in law enforcement and fire services, and to provide a competitive and social environment to encourage and pay homage to the camaraderie among these men and women through sport.

All events will take place at venues located in and around the Treasure Valley.

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Bench Press/Push Pull	Motocross	Sporting Clays
Biathlon	Open Water Swim	Swimming
Body Building	Over The Line	TCA
Bowling	Paintball	Table Tennis
Boxing	Pistol Police Action	Tennis
Cross Country	Pistol PPC	Three Gun
Cycling	Pocket Billiards	Track and Field
Darts	Police Motors	Trap
Dodgeball	Police Service Dogs	Triathlon
Equestrian	Racquetball	Ultimate Firefighter
Flag Football	Rifle Large Bore	Volleyball
Golf	Rifle Small Bore	Western Shooting
Horseshoes	Road Race	Wrestling

The Western States Police and Fire Games began in 1967 as the California Police Olympics. Though the name has changed the Games remain the same. Thousands of competitors from the law enforcement and fire communities participate each year in the Games.

Weekend warrior or hardcore amateur, if you would like more information, go to [www.cpa.org](http://www.cpa.org). You will find a complete list of events to be offered in 2008, the rules for competition and eligibility requirements.

Registration for the 2008 Western States police and Fire Games began in February

## Classified Ads

### Motorcycle For Sale

2006 SUZUKI GSXR 100. THIS BIKE IS PERFECT! It has 1,000 miles and has had it's 500 mile dealer service. (Expensive) It's been adult ridden; all wheels have always been on the ground. I use it as a cruiser/commuter. I'm selling it because it was purchased without proper consent of a loving wife. Apparently "do whatever the f\*\*\* you want" doesn't mean what I thought. \$10,000; Call Steve (801) 867-8292, Farmington Utah, 84025

### Vacation Rental

ENJOY THIS 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH CONDO in sunny old town Scottsdale AZ. Just steps away from the Giants Spring training stadium, This gated community offers 2 swimming pools, 2 spas, large fitness room and is next to the community golf course with bike/walking paths. ENJOY, NBA, PGA, NASCAR, NFL SUPER BOWL, NHL. Washer/dryer in unit, with plenty of storage. Pictures available on [Scottsdalesprings.com](http://Scottsdalesprings.com). Contact Patti and Gary (650) 355-7770. SFPD OWNED

### Vacation Rental

RELAX IN CARSON VALLEY! Carson Valley Golfers Retreat Vacation Home Rental. Gorgeous Views of the Sierra Mountains, 4 Bed, 2.5 Baths, 2300 s.f. SFPD/SFFD Member Rates: \$150 night or \$900 Week Call Vince at (415) 302-2500

GOLF GETAWAY IN THE REDWOODS. This beautiful two bedroom, two bath home is right on Northwood Golf Course (the fourth hole is your backyard). The amenities include complete kitchen, VCR, cable television, deck and hot tub. There is a third room with bunk beds unattached from the house. Call Mike Siebert 415-342-2241 for more information.

SPEND ONE MONTH EACH YEAR in our vac. home. 4bd. 3 ba. Princeville Resort, Kauai. \$2,500.00. May or December. Rt. Captain Ed Springer, (925) 682-1249, [e.l.springer@astound.net](mailto:e.l.springer@astound.net)

WINTER IN SUNNY PALM SPRINGS, 3BR 2BA condo sleeps 6, ground level, heated pool, tennis, 3 patios, walk to shops and transportation. Photos avail. 2 wk min./\$1500, 4 wk/\$2800. Email: [bearup@aol.com](mailto:bearup@aol.com).

MAUI VACATION RENTAL: Kihei Town-2 Br/2 ba Ocean View/ Remod. Condo (new decor.) photos avail. Grdn Resort w/ Pools/Tennis-accrs frm Best Beaches, near Golf, Wlk to Shops/Restur. Discount to SFPD/SFFD members/families. Call Alan McCann (925) 672-8887, [mauiohanacondo.mccann@gmail.com](mailto:mauiohanacondo.mccann@gmail.com)

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, 2 bedrooms and loft, in Tahoe Tyrol near Heavenly. [www.kellyrowlandhaus.com](http://www.kellyrowlandhaus.com) 50% off for SFPD. Kelly (415) 828-9458 [kohaia@yahoo.com](mailto:kohaia@yahoo.com)

### Free Classified Advertising Available for POA Members

The POA Journal 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.
- A member may run only one classified ad per issue. However, a member may repeat the same ad in three consecutive issues. An ad may run for three additional issues upon request of advertiser.

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](mailto:journal@sfpoa.org)

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT EMERALD SOCIETY

# 7th Annual SFBALLEES Golf Tournament at Lake Merced Golf Club



**Monday, August 18, 2008**

10:30 AM Check-in and 12 Noon Shotgun Start

**\$195.00** includes golf, cart, lunch, range balls, tee prizes and dinner at the UICC

Contact Brian Philpott 415-793-4558

# Close Encounters

By Steve Johnson,  
SFPOA

There was nothing on the news, at least there wasn't anything noteworthy on the local television channels that we could find that offered any insight whatsoever regarding the murder of a young Deputy Sheriff from Yolo County on Sunday, June 15, 2008.

The 37-year old Deputy Sheriff, **Jose Antonio Diaz**, was shot and killed after he pulled over Marco Topete, a recent parolee who had just served a 12-year state prison jaunt for assault with a deadly weapon.

It all started when Topete and his wife got into an argument. Topete leaves her on the side of the road while he drives off with their 4-month old baby. The wife calls 9-1-1 and Sheriff Diaz responded to the area.

When Sheriff Diaz came across Topete he took off at a high rate of speed — a short chase ensued. Topete came to a dead-end in the road and abandoned his truck. Sheriff Diaz arrived and immediately checked on the baby in the car (the camera in Sheriff Diaz' car was rolling the entire time) when all of a sudden Sheriff Diaz comes under heavy fire from a coward in the shadows. Numerous rounds hit his patrol car and Sheriff Diaz, even though seriously wounded, still managed to return fire while calling for back-up. Sheriff Diaz had been hit with a .223 caliber round. He was airlifted to the UC Davis Medical Center in critical condition and died that Sunday night.

The assassin was captured after a 12-hour search where Yolo County Sheriffs were assisted by members of the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Justice, and the FBI.

Now Dunnigan, California, is located in Yolo County — only 80 miles north of San Francisco! 80 miles north of San Francisco a young law enforcement officer is murdered in an ambush and we can't get our local news organizations to cover this tragedy?! Are the people who are wasting their lives away in the trees on the Berkeley campus really all that newsworthy??

Sheriff Diaz was a 10-year veteran of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, coached soccer and boxing and was the driving force in the lives of his 3 daughters (ages 2 years, 4 years, and 16 years). He was a member of our Law Enforcement Community and this story deserved front page on every one of our local newspapers and, at the very least, first billing on every one of our local television news stations.

Yeah, we know, there's always got to be a 'hook' for a story to get first billing — well, how about this: The courageous Yolo County Deputy Sheriff who was ambushed by a parolee with a history of violence never had the opportunity to say goodbye to his 3 young daughters on Sunday, June 15, 2008 . . . Father's Day.

The call of a suspect armed with a gun is, unfortunately, a matter of course in San Francisco and it's a "ride-along" that every candidate for

political office in The City should take. Forget the computer-enhanced firearm training that some Police Commissioners have experienced — it simply doesn't offer the same 'ambiance' . . . The "suspect armed with a gun" call will bring into focus all the training and experience police officers have acquired capped off with a healthy dose of courage. Anyway, this time it was in the area of Portola and Miraloma Drive. **Officer Patrice Scanlan** and **Officer Esther Gonzalez** responded along with **Lieutenant Dan Gardner**. The officers found their suspect driving nearby and, after making a felony traffic stop, not knowing where they might have to take this, the man who was described perfectly by witnesses who called 9-1-1 stepped out of his car and did exactly what he was told. The officers subsequently relieved him of his fully-loaded, 9mm semi-automatic. Further investigation turned up a fully-supplied, 4-wheel pharmacy. Unfortunately, for him, the suspect, now nicknamed "Doc", wasn't licensed to be in possession of any of the hundreds of pieces of narcotic contraband.

**Officer Angela Wilhelm** and **Officer Edward Zeltser** found it necessary to investigate the man trying to blend in at Turk and Taylor Streets, one of the highest crime rate sectors in the world, while trying to conceal the huge meat cleaver tucked into his waistband. Now we're not trying to be facetious here, but, let's face it — **Officer Wilhelm** and **Officer Zeltser** should be nominated for a lifesaving medal because that's exactly what they did when they disarmed this individual — they saved someone from what would probably have been a brutal assault with the cleaver — or are we missing something here?

## Time for a stupid crook story . . .

The suspect who was breaking into the car at Anza and Cook Streets was interrupted suddenly with the arrival by stealth of **Officer Carmen Batan**, **Officer Ernest Wilberg**, **Officer Dennis Lai**, and **Officer Jason Acosta**. The man with criminal intent written all over his face now tried to feign as though he was sleeping with his head resting on the steering wheel. Sleeping Beauty's nap was interrupted and he had a very difficult time trying to explain the damage he already did to the steering column with the makeshift tools he was still holding. It also didn't help that the car wasn't registered to him, he didn't know who the owner was, and an eyewitness in the neighborhood saw the whole thing . . . So much for the Ambien CR defense.

The Sunnysdale Neighborhood has been subjected to far too many Part I felony assaults — that's just a fancy way to say that there's been a hell of a lot of bad things happening in that part of The City. Tough to find a lot of police officers who want to subject themselves to a locale that notorious. . . But **Officer Angelina Sanchez** and **Officer Leonard Morrow** volunteered because they know they are the only ones between those who want to continue in their criminal endeavors and the good people who live there. And they do a great job — their latest adventure ended up with them scoring a fully-loaded, 9mm semi-automatic off of an individual who was not permitted to carry a concealed weapon - and, even if he was, it still would have been very difficult for him to explain why it had just been reported stolen.

The all-star burglary team working the tenderloin by "expertly" smashing a window, jamming inside to take whatever they could grab and run was causing a major headache to the owners of the establishments they were damaging. The members of the Tenderloin Task Force (TTF) were not going to have this charade continue any longer. **Officer Irene Michaud**, **Officer Brian Michaud**, and **Officer Gary Peachey** took it upon themselves to pull all the video security film they could get their hands on and, working closely with **Inspector Kevin Whitfield** of the Burglary Detail, they focused on those responsible. And,

once the members of TTF focus on something, the deal is done. Suspects in custody within hours and Inspector Whitfield worked his magic with 2 confessions.

**Officer Lyn O'Connor** and **Officer Anthony Gomes** responded to a burglary on South VanNess where the suspects had escaped with a huge haul but left a telltale bloodline behind. Lyn and Anthony are members of the SFPD Crime Scene Investigations Unit and immediately found prints and DNA samples. The prints weren't good enough for an AFIS check but the DNA was going to be useful. The evidence was submitted to SFPD Criminalists **Cherisse Boland**, **Armand Tcheong**, and **Matthew Gabriel** where a 'cold case' hit was made through CODIS (We have no idea what that means — but in police work it's apparently a good thing to have.) The suspect was now identified thanks to the conscientious work of **Officer O'Connor** and **Officer Gomes** as well as to the technical expertise of Criminalists **Boland**, **Tcheong**, and **Gabriel**. The evidence was handed over to **Inspector Susan Bachman** and **Sergeant Phil Pera** of the Burglary Detail and an arrest was made. Talk about teamwork . . .

We recently received a call from a reporter chasing a story with, what else, a political angle. The reporter wanted dirt — we're not going there. The story had nothing to do with police work. We made it very clear that his inquiries were not welcome and that's because our members are too damn concerned about the job they have to do rather than worry about the politics behind the decisions others make.

Members of the law enforcement community have to wear guns to work for a reason. It's not an easy job. There are no easy decisions in police work. We lose, on the average, 7 law enforcement community members in the United States each month. That's 7 families devastated every 30 days. We lost Deputy Sheriff Jose Antonio Diaz and his daughters lost their Dad — that's one hell of a price to pay for those who are only there to help others.

It's a shame the inquiring reporter didn't write about that . . .

## LOU SEAL WANTS YOU

To join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement  
Appreciation Night at AT&T Park  
Giants v. Washington Nationals

Wednesday, July 23, 2008 @ 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00

Ticket price includes a SFPD Giants Beanie Cap, Pre-Game Memorial Tribute to Officers Killed In The Line Of Duty, Fly Over by Law Enforcement Helicopter Units, National Anthem Sung by Sergeant Gerry D'Arcy and a Hosted Pre-Game Tail Gate Party to be held at the Mariposa Yacht Club.

Tickets are available at the SFPOA office.

Contact Sgt. Bob Guinan, San Francisco Police Dept, for additional information  
(415) 850-5726