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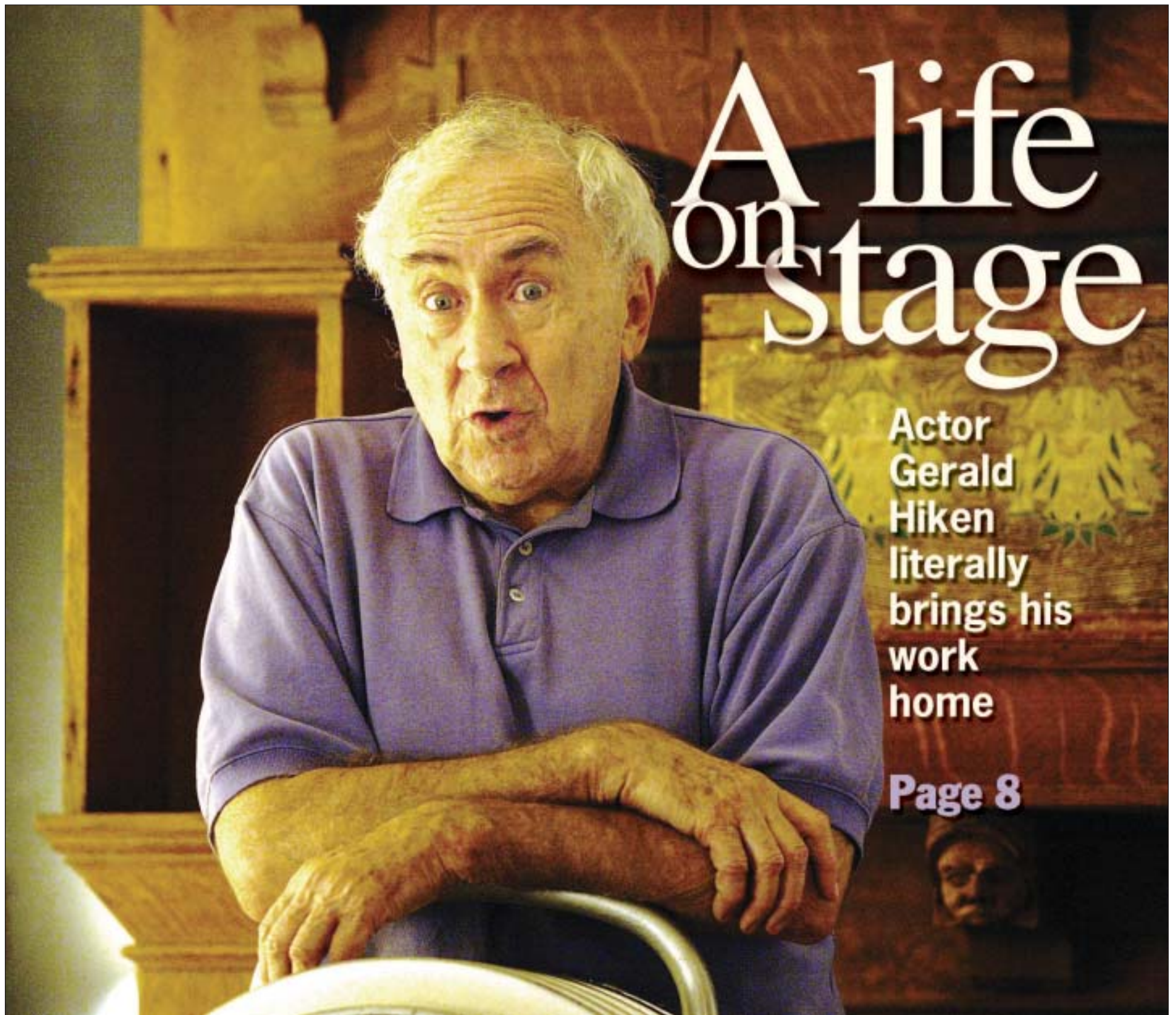
*Palo
Alto*

Weekly

Weekend Edition

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Upfront

Local news, information and analysis

PALO ALTO

Should the council tackle national issues?

Mayor wants informal policy saying no; will likely meet resistance

by Bill D'Agostino

A longstanding city debate — about whether the Palo Alto City Council should take a stand on national issues — will take center stage Monday night.

That's when a resolution opposing a U.S. Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages will come before the City Council. Even though technically the council

will only be asked for a referral of the resolution to a subcommittee, Mayor Bern Beecham wants to use the opportunity to set an informal policy that the council not use its precious time to discuss matters not of direct relevance to City Hall.

"Even though they may be important issues, they are not the right issues for this council," Beecham said.

The mayor's idea is expected to meet resistance, since it goes against what many of his colleagues have expressed in the past. If it finds unexpected traction, it would also effectively end discussion of the

gay-rights resolution, which was brought to the council by the city's Human Relations Commission.

Commission chair Jeffrey Blum said the declaration was intended to send a message of support to same-sex couples in the community. He felt it was important for the elected officials to rally the citizenry on vital national matters.

"It can have an impact on the national debate and bring attention to some important national issues," Blum said. "I think Palo Alto is a prominent community and it enhances our national image for us to occasionally get involved in

these important national issues."

The Human Relations Commission's role to lobby the council on such issues is written into the city's laws. According to the City Code, the commission may "encourage the council to support or oppose state or federal legislation."

Other national issues the council has taken a stand on in recent years include the second Iraqi war (against), the Patriot Act (against) and the death penalty (in favor of a moratorium).

The commission's vote on the (continued on page 5)

COMMUNITY

Lion sighted on roof raises concerns

City defends delay to notify residents

by Bill D'Agostino

For the second time in less than six months, a mountain lion was spotted in the heart of Palo Alto, far from any natural habitat.

After midnight on Tuesday morning, a Palo Alto teen saw the wild animal on a neighbor's shingled roof on North California Avenue. Her parents also saw the cougar and called authorities at 12:45 a.m. Police patrolled the area at night but found no sign of the animal.

About nine hours later, after daylight broke, city officials found a series of paw prints in muddy backyards. A Santa Clara County vector control official verified them a few hours later.

Soon after, the police began alerting neighbors and school administrators through fliers and e-mails.

One flier posted on a telephone poll noted, "The cat acted in a normal, non-threatening manner."

"It didn't approach anybody," City Naturalist Deborah Bartens explained. "It just moved away, which is always a good thing."

Two other residents reported sightings of mountain lions on Wednesday night, including one near the corner of Embarcadero Road and Louis Road. Police examined both, but Bartens cautioned they were unconfirmed.

"We just don't know," she said.

There have been an increasing number of sightings of cougars in the region. Bartens, who has been tracking them for a variety of agencies, defended the city's decision to wait until the afternoon, when the county official verified the prints, to alert residents.

"If we publicized every call that we get we'd be putting out reports every day," she said. Warnings from

(continued on page 5)



Nobert von der Groeben

A new covenant

A rainbow arches over the steeple of Covenant Presbyterian Church and children's center on East Meadow Drive Tuesday after a large rainstorm passed through the Bay Area.

Mayfield agreement expected early November

Deal between Stanford and Palo Alto calls for larger playing fields and possibly more housing

by Jocelyn Dong

Palo Alto and Stanford University officials expect to announce a long-awaited agreement to jointly develop playing fields and housing the first week of November, Palo Alto Planning Director Steve Emslie said this week.

The agreement has been anticipated since June 2003, when Stanford made the offer to lease the Mayfield property at El Camino Real and Page Mill Road to the city for 51 years for a rent of \$1 per year. In exchange, Stanford will receive additional development rights in the Stanford Research Park.

The overall plan calls for two playing fields and one practice field on

5.9 acres at the corner of El Camino Real and Page Mill Road, housing along El Camino and California Avenue, and expanded development in the research park.

Under the official name of the Stanford/Palo Alto Community Playing Fields, the plans call for side-by-side athletic fields suitable for adult as well as youth sports. One field would be 330 feet by 210 feet, and another 300 feet by 180 feet, with a practice field of 165 feet by 60 feet placed between the two. Artificial turf has been proposed.

Plans to be submitted to the city's Architectural Review Board also propose 70-foot-tall lighting poles,

where 50-foot poles were originally envisioned, according to project manager Beth Bourne.

A parking lot with 92 spaces would line El Camino Real and Page Mill Road. Room for 38 bicycle parking spaces has been planned, along with a "snack shack" with storage and restroom facilities.

The Planning and Transportation Commission and the Architectural Review Board are expected to vet the plans in November. The development agreement could reach the City Council by early January, according to Emslie.

A draft report on the environmental impact of the project is also

expected to be released early November.

The council recently approved spending an additional \$206,000 on the report to research additional project possibilities: up to 345 housing units (a minimum of 250 had been originally proposed), retail space in addition to housing at El Camino Real, the reconfigured fields, taller lighting poles, possible driveways off of El Camino Real and the selection of a site on Hillview Avenue for 100,000 square feet of relocated development. ■

Senior staff writer Jocelyn Dong can be reached at jdong@paweekly.com.

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The **Palo Alto Weekly** (ISSN 0199-1159) is published every Wednesday and Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94302, (650) 326-8210. Periodicals postage paid at Palo Alto, CA and additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for Santa Clara County. The Palo Alto Weekly is delivered free to homes in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, to faculty and staff households on the Stanford campus and to portions of Los Altos Hills. If you are not currently receiving the paper, you may request free delivery by calling 326-8210. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Palo Alto Weekly, P.O. Box 1610, Palo Alto, CA 94302. Copyright ©2003 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Printed by SFOP, Redwood City. The Palo Alto Weekly is available on the Internet via Palo Alto Online at: <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com>
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ReaderWire

Reader comments via e-mail, voice mail and U.S. mail

Palo Alto nostalgia

When my family moved to Palo Alto way back in 1951, jackrabbits gambled freely in the empty lots on our streets, where several houses were yet to be built.

Palo Alto was a wonderful place to grow up. The old Indian Bowl was the site of many fun-filled family bowling games, starting when I was very young. I lived in the Crescent Park area from 1951 until 1966, when I got married and moved to Mountain View.

Crescent Park Elementary, Jordan Junior High and Paly High all made great impressions on my life in different respects. The yearly Thanksgiving football game between Paly and Sequoia is still a great memory today.

My mom gave me the Weekly's 25th anniversary issue (Oct. 6) and I read the profiles of the four neighborhoods. It was quite nostalgic, although somewhat sad, to read of the many changes over the last several years. The profile of the Crescent Park area was of special interest to me; it was disheartening to read.

I could never afford to live in Palo Alto again, and I'm not sure I would want to do so (San Jose is getting close to the "out of reach" level too). But your article brought back many fond memories of a golden era.

Susan Lanning
Kimber Court, San Jose

Something stinks

There is a sewer-replacement project that has just begun in my neighborhood on El Dorado Avenue just off Cowper Street. These excavation projects are continuing to be single projects that have been wasteful of our tax dollars.

Combining this project along with another, such as laying the conduit for underground electrical, would be a better use of equipment, time and money, and it would minimize the disruption in the neighborhood.

Possibly I am in need of more information on this subject. However, the only objection raised is that it's a matter of coordinating two departments of the city (in this case water and electrical), and that is work, according to the city representative at the Midtown Social on Oct. 3.

I ask the City Council to please look into the high value of this combined effort. Let me know why additional

city funds are continually needed and are again on the ballot when this is an effective way of reducing the strain on our city budget.

Greg M. Bell
Cowper Street, Palo Alto

Anti I

Measure I is unfair to low-income people. Unfortunately, many Palo Alto residents, not only seniors, are at an income level where \$520 a year is a lot of money.

To be forced to support teachers earning from \$50,000 to \$70,000 a year is painful.

Please vote no on Measure I
Inge Infante
Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

'Monster' accusations

As campaign manager for Mike Lambert, I was startled and amused by Valerie Frederickson's letter last week (Weekly, Oct. 13) asserting that Mike Lambert's campaign is running on a platform that is "pushing for monster-home development."

The old-hat accusations regarding "villainous developers" are in full swing.

What planet is Ms. Frederickson living on? None of the candidates for Menlo Park City Council are running on such a platform. In fact, all the candidates agree that "monster homes" are not desirable in any neighborhood.

Ms. Frederickson's letter is a prime example of the baseless information and continued demonization of developers that comes forth during every Menlo Park campaign season. This is why voters need to get past rhetoric and find the truth about the candidates.

Mike Lambert is an intelligent, thoughtful, ethical person who is a life-long resident of Menlo Park. He is not a big, bad developer, nor does he subscribe to monster development over residential protections.

Contrary to Ms. Frederickson's misinformation, Ordinance 926 would have scaled back monster-home development with a strict set of rules.

Voters: Beware of fear-based rhetoric that will characterize the opposition's campaign!


Mary Gilles
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

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YOUR TURN

ReaderWire Question: Have any films this summer or fall risen above the mediocre?

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Lion sighting

(continued from page 3)

residents often turn out to be bobcats or German Shepherds, she noted.

The city needs to be careful not to “jump the gun” and say, “Oh, it’s a lion,” Bartens argued, because “then somebody’s more experienced (could) say, ‘For goodness sake that’s an aardvark.’”

In May, a police officer shot and killed a mountain lion that wandered into a residential neighborhood.

Residents criticized the city after that incident for failing to immediately notify neighbors of the danger, and Police Chief Lynne Johnson quickly apologized. The city was also condemned a few weeks later when it telephoned neighbors to report a sighting that turned out to be a bobcat.

“We get hammered from both sides, believe me,” Bartens said. “People say, ‘How dare you make us nervous,’ and we have other people telling us, ‘Thank you so much for letting us know.’ It seems like no matter what we do it’s not quite what everybody would like.”

The San Francisquito Creek — this week’s likely entry point for the cougar — was around two miles away.

Bartens and others hypothesized the season’s first rainstorm might have pushed the animal from the creek into the neighborhood.

From crossing guards to school-

children, the cougar was the talk of the neighborhood around North California Avenue.

“A little scary,” remarked Tom Lynch, who was wearing a motorcycle T-shirt while supervising a crew of men cutting down a nearby home’s tall cedar tree.

The sighting was two blocks away from Jordan Middle School. Crossing guard Mereile Strauss was warning students about the mountain lion as they walked down the street.

“Kids are curious,” she cautioned. “They might see one and want to talk to it or want to see it up close.”

As Jared Swezey-Gleason, a 10-year-old Ohlone student, walked down the street he showed little interest or awareness in his surroundings. He was not rattled by the news that a mountain lion was sighted less a block away.

“It was interesting in that we’re in their habitat and they came down and were not scared of cars,” he said.

The sighting triggered numerous e-mails from police officials, school administrators and neighborhood leaders.

“We found evidence of raccoons and other wildlife burrowing in the yards, which is what the lion is probably after,” Johnson wrote to neighborhood leaders, who passed along the message to their listservs.

“We will exercise extra caution during brunch, lunch and P.E. periods,” noted Scott Laurence, principal of Palo Alto High School, in an

e-mail to the Parent-Teacher-Student Association mailing list. “We suggest that families have their students walk or ride their bicycles in groups to and from school, and follow basic precautionary behaviors.”

It was the second confirmed sighting of a lion in Palo Alto in a week. On Oct. 12, a lion was spotted around 8 p.m. behind Stoa’s Restaurant near Highway 101. Police searched the area and found tracks and eviscerated ducks in the nearby Adobe Creek. Officers posted fliers to alert neighbors.

Lions have also been sighted in Palo Alto this year in the Barron Park neighborhood and behind the Stanford West apartments, where a cougar stalked a woman walking her dog in August.

The majority of the sightings have been in open space preserves, which are the animal’s natural habitat.

Anyone confronting a mountain lion is warned to wave their arms to look as large as possible, make loud noises and back away slowly from the lion. If one is attacked, authorities advocate fighting back.

City officials also recommend keeping pets and pet food inside, especially at night, to reduce incidents of mountain lions appearing in residential neighborhoods. ■

Senior Staff Writer Don Kazak contributed to this report.

Staff Writer Bill D’Agostino can be e-mailed at bdagostino@paweekly.com

National issues

(continued from page 3)

same-sex resolution became controversial earlier this year when Councilwoman LaDoris Cordell called for the then-chair of the commission, Lakiba Pittman, to step down because she abstained on the vote that sent the issue to the council.

Cordell argued human relations commissioners needed to support human rights for all, while Pittman

rebutted it was her free-speech right to abstain.

The larger debate over the council’s role in national issues was most recently highlighted when the council took a stand against the war in Iraq in February 2003. Council members Jim Burch and Judy Kleinberg presented that resolution to the council.

“I don’t think going to war in Iraq is a superfluous issue and I don’t think changing the constitution is just another issue,” Burch

said recently.

Beecham was absent from that 2003 meeting. Councilman Vic Ojakian was the sole council member who voted against the anti-war resolution, while Councilwoman Dena Mossar caused a stir by leaving the discussion and not voting. She similarly argued that the debate was not the council’s domain. ■

Staff Writer Bill D’Agostino can be e-mailed at bdagostino@paweekly.com

The Public Agenda *Next week’s meeting highlights*

Palo Alto City Council . . . The council will vote on a plan to **expand the Children’s Library construction project by 610 square feet**, a **plan to deal with traffic and transit**, and a **resolution opposing a U.S. Constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage**. The regular meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25 in the City Council Chambers inside City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.). A reception for **the neighbors abroad program** will also be held beforehand in the Council Conference Room starting at 6 p.m.

Palo Alto Parks and Recreation Commission . . . The commission will discuss the **Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo**, rules for the city’s **community gardens**, and the availability and maintenance of the city’s **athletic fields**. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26 in the City Council Chambers inside City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

Palo Alto Unified School District . . . The Board of Education will **discuss bids to renovate several elementary schools’ restrooms**. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26 in the district’s board room (25 Churchill Ave.).

Palo Alto Planning and Transportation Commission . . . The commission will review its reasons for denying an application by Mark Migdal to develop a subdivision of five homes at **797 and 807 Matadero Ave.** in Barron Park. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27 in the City Council Chambers inside City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

Palo Alto Library Advisory Commission . . . The commission will discuss the **library director’s status report to the City Council in November 2004**, the **restoration of Saturday hours at Downtown Library**, and **proposed policy regarding donations from the Friends of Palo Alto Library**. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 28 in the Council Conference Room inside City Hall (250 Hamilton Ave.).

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Lindo Maraschin, a resident of Palo Alto, died Oct. 17. A funeral mass will be held in his honor Friday, Oct. 22, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, 3233 Cowper St., Palo Alto.

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News Digest

Flu vaccine fading fast

The national shortage of flu vaccine is rapidly reducing the ability for people to get flu shots. The Palo Alto Medical Foundation has cancelled an Oct. 24 drop-in clinic and will have one final drop-in clinic on Nov. 6.

The high number of patients calling in to schedule flu shots — now reserved for high-risk individuals — means the foundation “probably won’t have any dosages after Nov. 6,” said Jill Antonides, director of public affairs for the medical foundation.

High-risk patients are those 65 or older, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, health-care workers, and children and toddlers 6 months to 23 months old. ■

— Don Kazak

Kleinberg can't vote on contracts

A state law prevents Palo Alto Councilwoman Judy Kleinberg from voting on city contracts with hundreds of high-tech companies, thanks to the wide membership of her employer, according to an outside legal advisor hired by the city.

The law also requires Kleinberg to disclose her job on official city records regarding such contracts, and prevents her from attempting to influence her fellow council members’ votes on them, according to attorney Eugene Hill, an outside advisor hired by the city.

However, the law and the councilwoman’s job do not prevent the city from entering into contracts with her company’s members since Kleinberg has such a remote financial interest, noted Hill.

In May, Kleinberg got a job as the executive director of the Bay Area Council of the American Electronics Association, a high-tech trade association. Its members include Stanford University, Agilent, Hewlett-Packard Co. and SGI. She disclosed the possible conflict immediately and the city attorney’s office has investigated its ramifications for months.

The law was already preventing the city from entering into conflicts with Hewlett-Packard, since Councilman Vic Ojakian works for the company.

The state law in question is California Government Code Section 1090. Earlier this year, the law became well known in Palo Alto after it was triggered when Councilwoman LaDoris Cordell was sworn in. Her job as a vice-provost for Stanford University effectively prevented the city from entering into new contracts or modifying existing ones with the university.

The situation was remedied when the city lobbied the state to amend the government code to exempt the university. Cordell still cannot vote on Stanford issues under a different state law.

The conflict leaves only six Palo Alto council members to vote on Stanford contracts and five votes are required to pass most contracts. Councilwoman Dena Mossar’s husband works for the university. Kleinberg can still vote on Stanford land-use decisions. ■

— Bill D’Agostino

Verizon Wireless argues city tax does not apply

A spokesperson for Verizon Wireless, responding to a recent lawsuit filed by the City of Palo Alto, claimed the company did not owe taxes the city was seeking.

On Oct. 1, the city filed a \$2.4 million lawsuit against Verizon Wireless, saying it had not charged its customers a tax on cell phone calls for 10 years. The city levies a 5 percent tax on all phone calls made in Palo Alto, excluding out-of-state and long-distance calls.

A Verizon Wireless spokesperson said the company did not believe the city’s law, as written, was relevant to wireless carriers.

“We believe it simply does not apply,” said Bob Kelley, a spokesperson for Verizon Wireless. He also said that the company never charged the tax to its customers.

Other cell phone companies pay the tax, which was approved by voters in 1987. ■

—Bill D’Agostino

Bike station to be renovated during closure

Bikestation Palo Alto, which stores bicycles for commuters at Palo Alto’s University Avenue train station, will temporarily close its doors starting on Oct. 27 during a renovation project at the depot building. The bikestation will also get upgraded during the closure, the City of Palo Alto announced this week.

The city received \$83,000 in funding for the additional renovation from the State Department of Transportation Bicycle Transportation Account. The money will be used to redesign, remodel and renovate the existing Bikestation including new bicycle storage racks, security card-key access system and redesigned workspace.

The depot renovation, managed by Valley Transportation Authority, will replace the roof, seismically upgrade the building and restore historically significant architectural features. The restrooms will be renovated and brought up to current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Construction will start in November and should be complete by August 2005, at which point the Bikestation will reopen. ■

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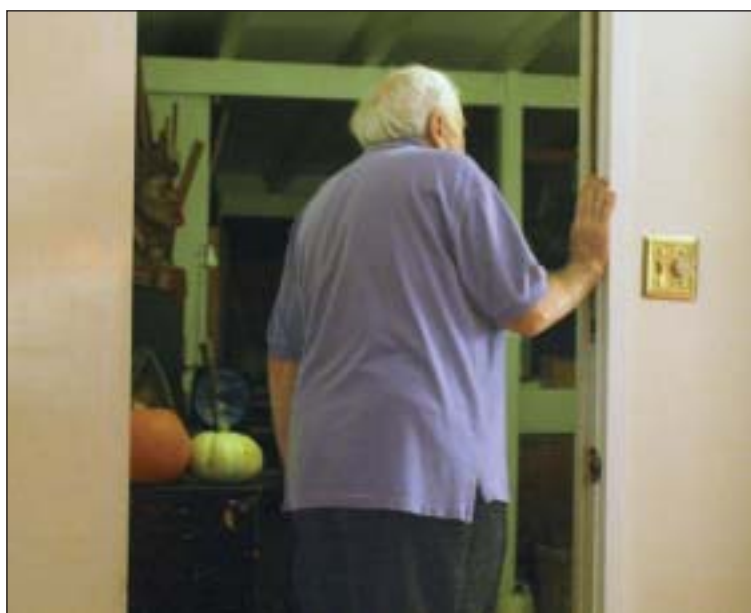
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Arts & Entertainment

A weekly guide to music, theater, art, movies and more, edited by Robyn Israel



(Above) Guests Sonia Gill and Peter Davis watch as Gerald Hiken performs; Hiken (below) waits for a late guest to arrive at his Palo Alto residence.



by Robyn Israel
photographs by Norbert von der Groeben

LIVING-ROOM

theater

Actor Gerald Hiken performs in his home — with dessert

Actor Gerald Hiken doesn't mind if people close their eyes and fall asleep during his performances.

And when an embarrassed reporter began coughing during his act, Hiken immediately stopped reciting, handed the reporter a lozenge and got back in character, without missing a beat.

That would never happen on Broadway.

But this is not the Great White Way. The venue is, instead, Hiken's cozy Palo Alto cottage, where all the action takes place in his living room. Surrounded by friends, neighbors and relatives, Hiken delivers an hour-long solo performance in which he assumes three different literary characters — Marcel Proust, W.H. Auden and Gertrude Stein — and reads from their works.



Gerald Hiken delivers an hour-long solo performance in which he assumes three different literary characters — Marcel Proust, W.H. Auden and Gertrude Stein — and reads from their works. The informal performance takes place in his home.

“When I was a little boy I wanted to be a writer,” said Hiken, a 40-year resident of Palo Alto. “Now this is my chance to ‘become’ some of the best writers I know.”

Hiken’s own résumé is impressive, with stage, screen (“Reds”) and television (“Cheers,” “St. Elsewhere,” “All in the Family”) credits. He trained with noted acting teachers Lee Strasberg and Uta Hagen. He received a Tony nomination in 1980 for “The Strider,” in which he played a horse that was the embodiment of Leo Tolstoy. His office even has a caricature of that role created by the late Al Hirschfeld, the famed New York Times artist.

Two other unique features of his “living-room-theater” event include an informal discussion about the performance, after which guests gather in Hiken’s kitchen, where his wife, Barbara, a former baker and pastry chef at St. Michael’s Alley, serves home-made desserts.

The public is also welcome to attend the Friday and Saturday-night performances, provided people call ahead to ensure that space is available (Hiken’s living room accommodates up to 12 people). Hiken calls his experiment “straw hat theater,” as donations are welcome.

“I’ve always been upset that to get a good seat in a theater you need to pay a lot of money,” he said. “Otherwise you have to sit in an uncomfortable chair far away. There’s some-

thing about that class system that I don’t like.”

Hiken’s alternative idea stemmed from his desire to perform in an intimate setting, where he can see each member of the audience.

“There’s something about acting I love and a lot I don’t. I’m not like most actors. I’m in it for another reason — I’m in it for the words. I’m not in it for the horsing around. If I could get out of the curtain calls I would. Bowing is one of my least favorite things.”

Hiken’s current gig is not new for him. He first started performing “living room theater” in 1968, after leaving Stanford, where for four years he taught drama and helped organize the university’s master’s in fine arts program, with fellow actor Paul E. Richards.

The recent revival also coincides with Hiken’s dislike of commuting to acting jobs. Travel has become more of an issue for the 77-year-old actor. When he recently did “Noises Off” for California Shakespeare, he lived in Berkeley and commuted to San Francisco.

“It’s lost its pleasure. I’m tired of it. I’m tired of driving my body to San Francisco and back. I love playing the shows, but I don’t want to live alone in an apartment in Berkeley while my family is here.”

An audition for Berkeley Repertory first

(continued on next page)



Hiken embraces guest Jojo Schwendinger after his Friday-night performance.

Gerald Hiken

(continued from previous page)

prompted Hiken to perform Auden's "Recitative" and "Narrative," both part of a larger work, "For the Time Being." Published in 1941, while the English poet was living in New York and feeling tormented by his war-ravaged country, the works resonated with Hiken.

"I've always been moved by that piece," he said. "It expresses the sentiments of someone who once felt invulnerable, who's lost faith."

In the aftermath of 9/11, Auden's grim poetry seemed even more appropriate, Hiken said.

"It's almost prophetic, the multi-layered experience of shock and tragedy, the seeds of which were evident but couldn't be recognized," he said.

In compiling his triumvirate of literary works, Hiken wanted to lead off with something more uplifting, so he chose Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past," specifically the novel's first cycle, "Swann's Way." First published in 1913, it chronicles the story of a man who feels mediocre and useless — until he drinks his tea and eats his *madeleines*. The simple tasting brings back a pleasant childhood memory, triggering feelings of happiness.

"The pain of the outside world to Auden is a contrast to the inner joy of Proust," Hiken said.

The last segment is "Narration," a lecture on newspaper writing that Gertrude Stein delivered to students at the University of Chicago in 1935. It was one of four lectures on various types of writing, when Stein was touring various college campuses after the successful publication of "The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas."

Hiken has a particular fondness for this piece. He first discovered it as a high school senior in Harry Schwartz's book store in Milwaukee, WI. He fell in love with the writing and could not put it down.

"She was a very smart lady, but she was a little cuckoo, a little peculiar. Still, there's something about her spirit I like a lot."

Stein's writing can be obscure, so Hiken said he only presents the part he is able to understand. He also took the liberty of repunctuating her work, facilitating its comprehension for his audience.

"She would probably be horrified," Hiken said. "I've popularized her."

Hiken's treatment met with the approval of guest Pam Webster.

"I always heard the beat in her writing. And I could hear the poetry but I could never get the meaning," Webster said. "I never knew where she was going, let alone where she ended up. But tonight I could really understand it. It was illuminating."

Another guest, Sonia Gill, said she enjoyed the performance but struggled to connect with Auden's poetry.

"I felt like they (Stein and

(continued on page 12)



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Kristen Sharpley (left) and Lori Decter are two of the 15 contestants who will be vying for the title of West Bay Opera's 'Superstar.'

Divas-in-training

Fifteen vie for title of West Bay Opera 'Superstar!'

by Erin Pursell

It's rare in the opera world for singers to get constructive feedback from their audience.

But that's what 15 emerging singers can expect this Saturday, when they compete in West Bay Opera's "Superstar" Competition. The winner will receive a \$3,000 prize.

"I just thought it would be a good experience," said contestant Lori Decter, a San Francisco native. "It's a unique performance and I'm interested in the feedback."

Nine contestants are from the Bay Area, while some are coming from as far away as Connecticut and Texas. All are under 30 and most have been singing opera for years.

For example: Decter, 29, who has been singing since elementary school, earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in music and vocal performance from San Jose State University.

Since July 2001, she has been a principal resident artist at San Jose Opera, and played Donna Elvira in West Bay Opera's production of Don Giovanni in May.

"We (singers) are like the instrument of expression," Decter said. "The greater pleasure comes in how you affect other people."

The competition will have two rounds, prior to which the "Superstars" will be asked a question by a three-person judging panel. The panel is comprised of Erie Mills, an opera stage manager and San Jose State music professor; Jonathon Fieldan, an opera stage director; and Robert Ashens, an opera impresario and conductor.

This year's question — "What is your dream role and why?" — seeks to put singers at ease before their performance.

"It (the question) is (designed) to make them think about what they're doing and why and it sort of gets them into the mood, and

helps them to relax," said Joan Sloss, director of casting and the coordinator for the competition.

In the first round, contestants will sing two minutes of a song of their choice. After the round is over, the audience will vote on their favorites, sending the top four into the finals. Judges have the option of adding two more singers to the final round, if they feel the audience has overlooked someone.

In the final round, contestants will sing an entire aria, after which the judging panel will select the winner based on career potential and overall performance.

"When I think about the programs that are out there it is unique because it's a competition and yet it's a master class because you're getting feedback not only from judges but from the audience as well," Sloss said.

Jordan Shanahan, 27, who attended the University of Hawaii and Temple University, has been singing professionally in the U.S. and Europe for the last three years and is a top contender in this year's competition. He starred in West Bay Opera's production of "The Barber of Seville" last season and has an upcoming role in the company's "Lucia di Lammermoo" in February.

"I had a great time here doing 'Barber,' and was happy to have an excuse to come back again," Shanahan said.

Sonia Gariaeff, a finalist from last year's competition, said she looks forward to debuting a few new arias to the public during her performance.

"I lost my voice in the finals last year and was going to have to sing the next night so I just couldn't perform," the San Francisco resident said, adding that she looks forward to having another chance to compete.



Jordan Shanahan is a top contender in this year's competition.

Gariaeff is also a West Bay Opera favorite, having been in several productions over the last four years, including "Barber of Seville" and the current production of "La Clemenza di Tito."

"They (West Bay Opera) have been like a family to me," Gariaeff said. "The competition will be a nice opportunity to sing for the West Bay audience."

Long-term singing goals are

"It's a unique performance and I'm interested in the feedback."

—Contestant Lori Decter

something all the participants share.

"I would just love to be able to make my living singing," said Kristen Sharpley, a lifelong Los Altos resident and "Superstar" hopeful.

Sharpley, 26, has been singing since seventh grade, and said she knew early on that she wanted to be a singer.

"I went to my first opera when I was 13, which gave me that fire for opera and sparked my interest," she said.

The 15 contestants hope to follow in the footsteps of 2003 winner Beverly Jane Peatross. She has gone on to perform in Pocket Opera San Francisco and will

(continued on next page)



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Divas

(continued from previous page)

also sing in November with the San Francisco Choral Society. Peatross will be a guest artist at this year's "Superstar" competition.

Regardless of the outcome, singers can take their feedback and apply it toward the advancement of their career.

"I just want to be the very best artist I can possibly be," Gariaeff said. "Hey, why not?" she said with a laugh. "I might as well try to create something beautiful." ■

WHAT: West Bay Opera Superstar! Fifteen young opera singers compete to win the title and cash awards. Audience members vote to choose the finalists; the ultimate decision rests with the professional judges.
WHEN: Saturday at 8 p.m.
WHERE: Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.
COST: . Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the West Bay Opera box office at (650) 424-9999, Monday through Friday, 1-6 p.m. or by visiting www.wbopera.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Holt Building Box Office, 221 Lambert Ave. in Palo Alto.
INFO: Call (650) 424-9999 or visit www.wbopera.org.

Gerald Hiken

(continued from page 10)

Proust) were working it out in front of us," Gill said. "But I felt his was all tied up and I couldn't get into it."

Hiken will be suspend his personal performances after Dec. 11, when he assumes a role in TheatreWorks' holiday show, "Shakespeare in Hollywood."

But he will resume his living-room theater in mid-February, where he will again demonstrate that in Palo Alto — echoing Stein's famous line about Oakland — there's a there there. ■

WHO: Gerald Hiken, performing excerpts from the writings of Marcel Proust, W.H. Auden and Gertrude Stein
WHERE: 910 Moreno Ave. in Palo Alto
WHEN: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Performances will continue through Dec. 11 and then resume in mid-February.
COST: Donations are welcome.
INFO: Please call (650) 856-6520.

About the cover:
Actor Gerald Hiken, a 40-year resident of Palo Alto. Photograph by Norbert von der Groeben.

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A Real Change.





Norbert von der Groeben

Palo Alto entrepreneur Jesse Harley is seeking to bring aspiring filmmakers and seasoned professionals together.

Ahead of the P.A.C.

New Palo Alto non-profit aims to broaden cinematic horizons

by Tyler Hanley

Filmmaker Jesse Harley is hoping to dispel the myth that only Hollywood-bound directors can succeed in the business. The 24-year-old protégé sits at the nexus of a fledgling non-profit group's goal to bring together aspiring filmmakers and seasoned professionals — right here in Palo Alto.

"I really want to make (filmmaking) available to the working class," Harley said.

Thick glasses magnify the hopeful glimmer in Harley's eyes, and his tweaked ball cap fits with the creative persona of a man who embraces art and refuses conformity. Harley's fervor mirrors the objectives of Palo Alto Creations, or P.A.C.3, the non-profit organization of which he is co-chair and executive director. Harley said the numeral 3 represents three important aspects of Palo Alto Creations.

"There are three fundamental elements involved: non-profit management, enthusiasm with independent film and industry professionals," he said.

The blossoming enterprise has slated a series of film- and television-related workshops with industry professionals, with costs ranging from \$60 for one workshop to \$1,000 for a pre-paid series.

The professionals are an eclectic bunch of cinematic specialists. Nathan Franson, makeup-effects technician for Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," will discuss makeup; Rosemary Welden, casting director for the James Spader thriller "Shadow of Fear" (2004) will talk casting; and sound director Bret Michel will chime in about sound. Many other speakers — more than 36 total — are slated for the series,

which begins in February.

The climax of P.A.C.3's series will be a hands-on filmmaking experience. Able participants will cooperate on an independent, feature-length film, employing all aspects of the project, from lighting and sound to performance and editing. The film, selected from a screenwriting competition, will be shot and edited using digital video technology.

The challenges of operating an arts-based non-profit are daunting for a young director to carry alone.

Enter Sue Lubais, P.A.C.3 co-chair and Web master. Whereas Harley provides the creative inspiration, Lubais offers financial know-how.

Lubais, who acts as management and marketing consultant, has utilized her 25-plus years of experience in high-tech marketing and sales (her résumé includes a stint at Intel) to help Harley get 501c3 non-profit status and subsequently launch P.A.C.3. And having Lubais on-board is helping Harley better understand other facets of filmmaking.

"He's getting a hell of a business education," Lubais said.

Harley and Lubais met in a way most Palo Altans can relate to — they're neighbors. Lubais would watch with interest as Harley started shooting low-budget independent films during his high-school days at Palo Alto High School. His first feature-length film, "Blood Brothers," was intended as a Paly senior project, but when instructors informed Harley that he couldn't get school credits, he simply went ahead and completed the film. The feedback he received proved inspirational.

"The same people who said I couldn't do it gave me an award for

excellence in video," he said.

A self-proclaimed film lover herself, Lubais has helped contribute to Harley's endeavors — her pet sheep dog, Fluffy, was featured in the Harley-produced film, "The Gargoyle." But Lubais and Harley are at odds in determining which of the three independent feature films Harley has directed — "Blood Brothers," "Stone Tears" or "The Gathering" — is his best work. Harley quoted "The Gathering" as his biggest disappointment; Lubais called it his crown jewel.

Both Harley and Lubais agree that filmmaking resources and knowledge should be available to everyday, working citizens.

Once P.A.C.3's film is finished (Harley said that will likely be in early 2006), all participants will receive a copy they can use to help further their careers, ideally eliminating the "catch 22" of "needing work to get experience and needing experience to get work" — something that haunts Harley.

"By chance, perspiration and determination, I hope I've eliminated that catch 22 myself. But I did it through insanity," Harley said.

Another benefit of signing up is "Friday Night Movies" — outings in which participants will gather to view a film and discuss the work over snacks and beverages.

"We become a community making the film together," Lubais said.

Harley and Lubais may clash over which film to watch. Some of Harley's favorite films include "Stand By Me" and "Silence of the Lambs." Lubais prefers classic fare, such as "The Sound of Music" and "Casablanca." Regardless, Lubais feels that in this quick-paced world, creativity is imperative.

"All arts are important. Everyone is always moving so fast — you have to have a little of the other thing, too," she said. ■

For more information about P.A.C.3 please visit www.pac3.com. Screenplays are currently being accepted.

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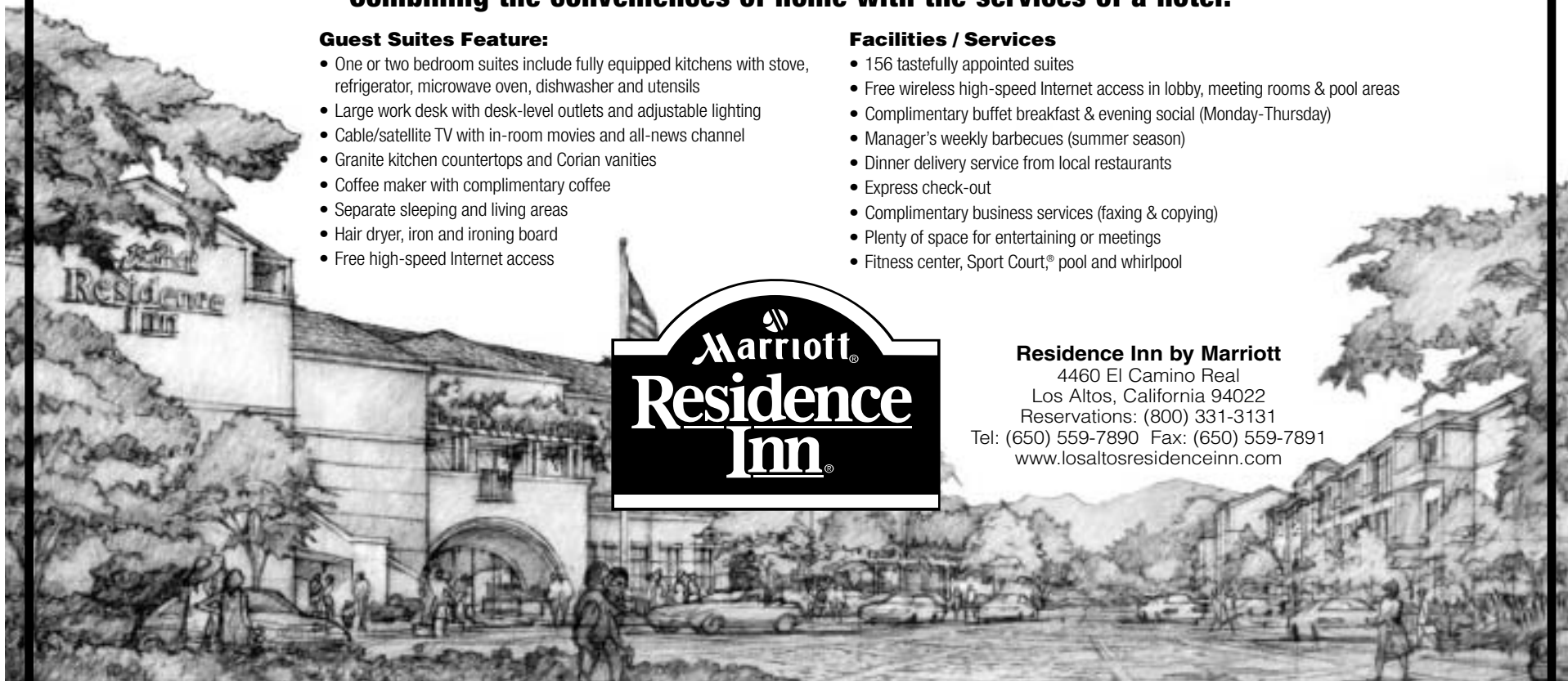
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Worth a Look

Art

Women on the Verge

A new exhibition, "Women on the Verge: The Culture of Neurasthenia in 19th-Century America," is currently on display at the Cantor Arts Center. Culled from the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, it features paintings of 19th-century American women and examines how these portrayals relate to neurasthenia, a nervous illness common in the last decade of the 1800s. "Women on the Verge" includes prints and advertising material depicting both "nervous" female invalids and robust women engaged in vigorous outdoor sports.

The exhibition will run through Feb. 6. Viewing hours are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday; Thursday until 8 p.m. Admission is free. Call (650) 723-4177 or visit www.stanford.edu/dept/ccva.



"Miss Alice Kurtz," an oil on canvas by Thomas Eakins, is currently on display at the Cantor Arts Center. It is part of a new exhibition, "Women on the Verge: The Culture of Neurasthenia in 19th-Century America."

To learn more about the "Dear George" project, visit www.DearGeorgeLetters.com.

Festival

To Life!

"To Life! Festival," a unique celebration of Jewish culture, will take place on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on California Avenue in Palo Alto. The event will showcase the work of more than 100 Judaic artists, and will feature a wide variety of music, dance, food and hands-on activities for the whole family. Admission is free. For more information please visit www.ToLifeFestival.org.

Music

Palo Alto Philharmonic

The Palo Alto Philharmonic will open its season on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. The program, entitled "Inspired by America," will feature music by Antonin Dvorak, Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber and composer-in-residence Lee Actor. The Philharmonic will be led by Guest Conductor Thomas Shoebotham.

Tickets are \$16 general; \$14 seniors and \$7 students at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$2 less on the web. For information, please visit www.paphil.org or call (650) 857-0737.

Ethan Iverson



Ethan Iverson (far right) will perform on Sunday at Art21 in Palo Alto.

Ethan Iverson will perform on Sunday at 2 p.m. at Art21, 539 Alma St. (corner of Hamilton Ave.) in Palo Alto.

Iverson used to be the in-house piano player for the Mark Morris Dance Group. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.virtuous.com.

Peninsula Pops

Peninsula Pops will perform on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Gunn High School's Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road in Palo Alto. Guests will include Todd Summers and the Gunn High School Symphonic Band. The program will feature works by George Gershwin, Henry Mancini and music from hit movies, including "The Lion King," "Austin Powers" and "The Flintstones."

Tickets are \$15 adults; \$12 seniors; free for children under 9 accompanied by their parents. Advance tickets are available by phone at (650) 856-8432 or online at www.peninsulapops.com.



Peninsula Pops will kick off their season on Sunday at Spangenberg Theatre.

Flute recital

A flute recital will take place on Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road. Flutist Takashi Hidai will perform; pianist Hiroko Mizuno will accompany. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged to benefit the Palo Alto Humane Society. For more information please call (650) 424-1901 or visit www.paloaltohumane.org.



Flutist Takashi Hidai will perform on Sunday at the Palo Alto Art Center. The event is a fundraiser for the Palo Alto Humane Society.



Pianist Julie Steinberg will perform on Saturday with the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra.

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra

The Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra will kick off its 39th season on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Spangenberg Theatre, 780 Arastradero Road in Palo Alto. The program will include Mozart's "Divertimento in F Major" and two Argentine tango works, Osvaldo Golijov's "Last Round" for String Orchestra and Astor Piazzolla's "Libertango." Pianist Julie Steinberg and soprano Anja Strauss will perform as soloists for this concert.

Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 students. For more information please call (650) 856-3848 or visit www.pacomusic.org.

Opera

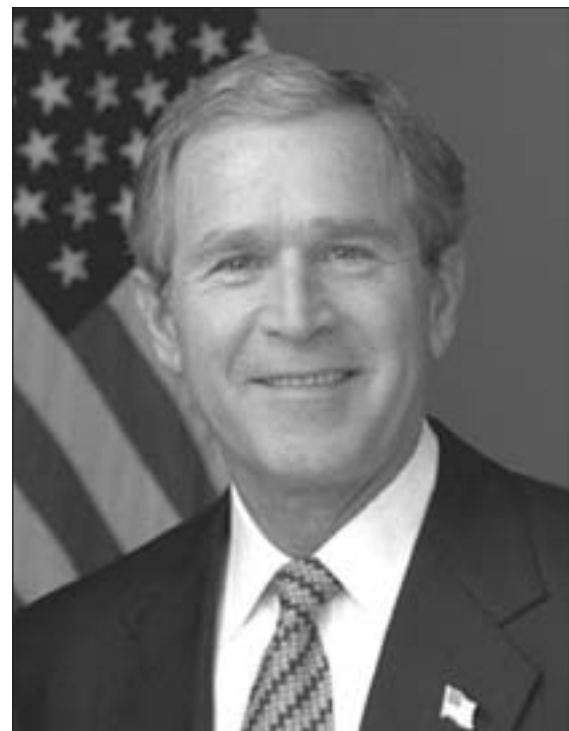
Mozart's last opera

West Bay Opera will present Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito" tonight at 8 p.m. at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto. This story of love, intrigue and revolution in ancient Rome was written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart during the final months of his life. The performance will be repeated on Sunday at 2 p.m. The production will be in Italian with English supertitles and will feature a specially enlarged West Bay Orchestra on stage.

Tickets are \$36; \$18 for youth under 17 and students with valid ID. For tickets or more information, please call the West Bay Opera box office at (650) 424-9999, Monday through Friday, 1-6 p.m., or visit www.wbopera.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the Holt Building Box Office, 221 Lambert Ave. in Palo Alto.



Sonia Gariaeff stars in West Bay Opera's production of "La Clemenza di Tito."



A compilation of letters to President Bush will be read on Oct. 25 and 27 at Bus Barn Theatre.

Theater

Dear George: Letters to the President

Bus Barn Stage Company will present a new performance piece, "Dear George: Letters to the President," on Monday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The show will take place at the Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Avenue in Los Altos.

"Dear George" was conceived by Marcus Woolen, a New York City performer and writer, who opened a Website and invited Americans across the country to write letters to President George Bush during the summer. What resulted is a compilation of open letters from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands as well as Americans overseas. The piece covers a wide range of opinions on every major issue, including the war in Iraq, the economy, gay marriage and 9/11.

Woolen has left room in the performance to read letters from local residents who wish to participate in the performance. Letters can be sent to Bus Barn Stage Company, PO Box 151, Los Altos, CA 94023, attn: Barbara Cannon, or via email to busbarn@busbarn.org.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the box office with a credit card, or at the performance (cash and check only). To reserve a space, call the box office at (650) 941-0551. Admission will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m.



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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Ragusa's chic dining room (above) offers patrons a comfortable dining experience. Menu highlights include grilled meat, soup and pasta.

Nicholas Wright

European flair

Mediocre service mars Ragusa's solid food

by Mandy Erickson

The Savinovic family opened Ragusa in 2002. Though natives of Croatia, they opted to specialize in general Continental cuisine.

Steve Savinovic and his children, Mark, Vlaho, Marina and Michael, offer patrons a comfortable dining experience. The interior is decorated with wood paneling, mirrors and potted palms, with a fresh carnation at every table. For dinner service, the tables are dressed in white linens, while at lunch they take on the more casual attire of woven placemats.

Ragusa's food is impressive, with Savinovic producing exceptional grilled meat, soup and pasta. But there's room for improvement in the dining room.

My first visit tried my patience — I was still waiting to order a cocktail when I saw people seated

after me dig into their appetizers. Granted, my dining companion and I visited Ragusa during the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival, a hectic weekend for the Main Street restaurant, but our visit was continued long after the music stopped and many of the dining room tables had emptied.

And a lunchtime trip during the week was similarly frustrating. Our cocktail, when it arrived, was a Manhattan (\$6.50) that was fine except for being watery — most likely it had been sitting in the shaker too long and the ice had melted. We waited for what felt like an eternity to order the rest of the meal, and while the waiter was professional and friendly, each course arrived after much too long of a pause.

We started with the Ragusa platter (\$18.50), a terrific appetizer for two hungry diners. It con-

tained smoked salmon, cheese (the menu said it was feta, but we were served brie), prosciutto, melon, olives, pickled red bell pepper, grilled prawns and cocktail sauce. The portions were divided in two, which was fortunate, as we would have fought over the prosciutto and smoked salmon, both of them salty, silky and sumptuous. The melon was delicious, juicy and at the peak of ripeness. But the pepper had a harsh, bitter acidity, and I couldn't eat more than a bite. Curiously, the olives resembled the flavorless black circles that adorn Mexican-American entrees.

The French onion soup (\$6.50) was excellent. The caramelized onions melted on the palate, and bay leaves enhanced the broth. Its broiled cheese topping didn't overwhelm the dish as it often does, and the slice of toast nestled in the bottom of the bowl was pleasantly sour.

Our neighboring diners — the ones who arrived after us — had graduated to dessert and coffee by the time our entrees arrived. That gave me time to develop an ap-

petite for the Ragusa mixed grill (\$21), a hefty serving of grilled chicken breast, sirloin steak, pork tenderloin, lamb chop and *chevapi*, a patty of ground beef, veal and pork. Save for the steak, which was a tad chewy, all the cuts were succulent, tender and flavorful. The meat was impaled on a sword-handled skewer and topped with a rich, red-wine sauce that included slow-simmered carrots, onions and red and green bell peppers.

I asked for mashed potatoes with the entree instead of rice, and it was the right choice: These were fluffy, buttery, speckled with parsley and delicious. The other side dish, a small pile of steamed carrots and broccoli florets, was the dud on the plate. Overcooked and bland, the vegetables could easily have been omitted.

The menu describes the pan-seared prawns and scallops (\$20) as topped with a pesto sauce, but the white-wine cream sauce had so little basil we could hardly taste it. The scallops were perfectly cooked but the prawns were a little overdone. This dish came with a hearty serving of garlicky sauteed spinach that had unfortunately spent too much time in the pan.

Ragusa's lunch menu differs from the dinner fare, with more sandwiches and salads. A recent soup of the day was tomato basil (\$4.95), delectable with a hint of cream and chunks of fresh tomatoes. But I was taken aback to find the basil dried, not fresh, given the seasonal availability.

The Ragusa salad (\$8.50), a respectable mixture of fresh, crisp lettuce, included red and green bell peppers, red onions and tomatoes. But the dressing had too much vinegar, and it was topped with more of those bland olives.

Mushroom fettuccini (\$12) was a near-perfect dish of fresh pasta, caramelized onions, cream sauce and three kinds of mushrooms: crimi, oyster and shiitake. The pasta had a terrific bite, the sauce a mellow, rich flavor.

The white-wine cream sauce that coated the sauteed calamari (\$11) — finger-sized strips of squid steak — had a nice kick

that the otherwise flavorless flesh absorbed well. This meal came with a bright-yellow serving of saffron-flavored rice and more of those unfortunate steamed vegetables.

Our waiter recommended two dishes from the dessert menu: *tartufo limoncello* (\$5.50) and bananas foster (\$7.50). Both were hits. The *limoncello* (lemon gelato) had a lemon flavor that wasn't quite real, but it was very light and refreshing. The fruit slices in the bananas foster, sauteed in brown sugar and butter, then doused with brandy and lit, packed a flavor far greater than such a simple dish would suggest.

We strayed once from the dessert recommendations and regretted it. The berry tart (\$7) was soggy and stale, and we couldn't taste the almond cream and mixed berries. It was topped with a Matterhorn-sized serving of ice cream that didn't help matters.

Ragusa offers an extensive wine list, with labels from California and Europe in all price ranges. But there are no half-bottles, and the only wines available by the glass are the low-end ones.

When I called Ragusa to see if reservations were necessary for a Saturday night, the answer was, "Of course, this is a fine restaurant." Ragusa is a fine restaurant, but a classier establishment would pay better attention to all its diners. ■

Ragusa, 325 Main St. in Los Altos; (650) 947-4919

Hours: Open daily 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30 to 9 p.m. Also open Friday, Saturday and Sunday for breakfast 8 to 10:30 a.m. Open for Sunday brunch at 10:30 a.m.

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NOW SERVING

Following are condensed versions, in alphabetical order, of longer restaurant reviews published in the Weekly over the past several years. This week's reviews begin where the list ended one week ago.

Price Guide: (Beverages not included in average meal prices) \$ - Average meal per person less than \$10 \$\$ - Average meal

\$10-\$15 \$\$\$ - \$15-\$20 \$\$\$\$ - Above \$20

Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar, #1 Town and Country Village, Palo Alto (650) 323-1555 Excellent fresh fish entrees and seafood appetizers. Salmon, halibut, tuna, sea bass and Petrale sole excel. Portions are generous, but prices are on the high side. Wine list is first-rate, albeit pricey. Décor is nondescript but benign. Service can

feel rushed. Breakfast Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-11 a.m.; Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Dinner Sun. and Monday 5-9 p.m.; Tue.-Sat. 5-9:30 p.m.; Brunch Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed May 21, 2004)

Second Cup Cafe, 987 San Antonio Road, Los Altos (650) 948-1670 There's nothing fancy or trendy here — basic breakfasts (omelets, pancakes, french toast, bacon

and sausage, pastries) and lunches (soups, sandwiches, salads) are served. But owner Max Zariv, who has operated the small storefront for over 10 years, offers friendly service on a consistent basis. Breakfast and lunch only Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sat. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. \$ (Reviewed May 16, 2002)

Senor Taco, 3636 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 493-8757 Large menu of burri-

tos, tacos, tostadas and daily specials. No-frills atmosphere. Self-service. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. \$ (Reviewed October 13, 1995)

Shiok! Singapore Kitchen, 1137 Chestnut St., Menlo Park (650) 838-9448 A melding of unusual flavors plus a dash of fun. Many dishes are served on large banana

(continued on next page)



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941-9222

(continued from previous page)

leaf-shaped platters, while large covered pots contain noodle dishes. Lunch Tue.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dinner Tue.-Fri. 5:30-9 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 5-9 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed August 2, 2000)

Siam Garden, 1143 Crane St., Menlo Park (650) 853-1143 Sumptuous lemon-grass soups, Thai curry, Thai noodles. The shrimp salad is to die for. Although there are good lunch specials, pass on them and order off the full menu. A good place for groups to share many dishes. Spiciness is mild to barely medium, so even the most timid palate can feel comfortable here. Mon.-Fri. Lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dinner 5-10 p.m.; Sat. 5-10 p.m.; Sun. 5-9 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed June 6, 2002)

Siam Royal, 338 University Ave., Palo Alto (650) 329-8129 Siam Royal offers an alternative perspective on Thai cuisine — milder than expected, but smooth, rich and definitely sweet. Specialties include lime prawn soup, green curry, fried tofu. No-frills atmosphere. Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun.-Thu. 5-9:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 5-10 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed November 12, 1993)

Silan Cucina Mama, 376 First St., Los Altos (650) 917-0300 Menu highlights include wood-fired pizzas and generous salads. Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch; 4:30 to 9 p.m. for dinner (Friday and Saturday until 10 p.m.). Sundays for dinner only, 4 to 9 p.m. (Hours are expected to change in the future, when the restaurant plans to offer a seafood brunch on weekends. \$\$ (Reviewed October 8, 2004)

Skip's Place, 299 First St., Los Altos (650) 949-1170 Known mostly for its pizza, Skip's Place needs to be recognized for its stellar 1/3 pound cheeseburger as well. Come for lunch, when owner Joe You can be seen throwing pizza dough up in the air in the kitchen amid a pleasant hustle and bustle of customers. Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. pizza only 5-9 p.m. \$ (Reviewed January 18, 2002)

Some Kind of Place, 85 Town & Country Village, Palo Alto (650) 321-4730 The lo-

cation at Town & Country Village is small, but the menu spans the globe. Gives hungry lunch-goers a great way to eat in a hurry and three items will only cost you \$4.60. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$ (Reviewed August 4, 1995)

Spago, 265 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto (650) 833-1000 The true draw at this upscale Californian restaurant is the decadent atmosphere and the ostentatious aura that magically makes anyone passing through the doors feel important. Still a place to see and be seen, Spago Palo Alto is one of five Wolfgang Puck-owned Spagos nationwide. Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Dinner Mon.-Fri. 5:30-9 p.m., Sat. 5:30-10 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed October 18, 2002)

Spalti Ristorante, 417 California Ave., Palo Alto (650) 327-9390 This fine restaurant offers an extensive dinner menu featuring a broad cross section of classic and unusual dishes. Above-average food, fair pricing, personable service and an excellent wine cellar. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m.; Sun. 4:30-9 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed December 19, 2003)

St. Michael's Alley, 806 Emerson St., Palo Alto (650) 326-2530 Jenny Youll and partner Mike Sabina bought back St. Mike's in 1998, dolled up the interior, revamped the brunch, lunch and dinner menus and reopened. It's fun and romantic, no bones about it, whether it's brunch, lunch or the sophisticated new American dinner fare. Tue.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue.-Sat. 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. brunch 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed April 4, 1998)

Stacks', 314 El Camino Real, Redwood City (650) 482-2850 The quintessential California diner, Stacks' is a homey place that specializes in breakfast fare (pancakes, Belgian waffles and omelets top the list). Go during the week or early on weekend mornings to minimize waiting time. Mon.-Sun. 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed January 31, 2002)

Stoa, 750 Fabian Way, Palo Alto (650) 424-3900 This elegant and upscale restaurant strives toward innovation, with a vegetarian menu that includes Californian, French/Italian, Mediterranean and Asian/fu-

sion dishes. Sat.-Sun. 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. \$\$\$\$ (Reviewed June 13, 2003)

Straits Cafe, 3295 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 494-7168 This stylish outpost of Singaporean cuisine serves up generous dishes that are meant to be shared. The menu comprehensively represents the four ethnic elements of Singapore's national cuisine: Chinese, Indian, Malay-Indonesian and Nonya (Chinese-Malay) cooking. Mon.-Thu. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-9:30 p.m.; Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-10 p.m.; Sat. 5-10:30 p.m., Sun. 5-9:30 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed August 28, 1998)

Su Hong Restaurant, 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 323-6852 Mandarin and Szechwan dishes. Takeout available. Almost always busy. Reservations recommended. Lunch Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dinner Sun.-Thu. 4:30-9:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 4:30-10 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed April 30, 1999)

Sue's Indian Cuisine, 216 Castro St., Mountain View (650) 969-1112 Generous with portions, Sue's serves southern Indian cuisine that's rich and spicy in a casual atmosphere. Diners are surrounded by paintings by the restaurant's owner. Daily lunch buffet 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Sun.-Wed. dinner 5-9:30 p.m. Thu.-Sat. 5-10 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed December 29, 1995)

Sundance Steakhouse, 1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 321-6798 Fine steakhouse with a genteel but still-casual atmosphere, dim lighting and dark wood. Though steak and prime ribs are among the specialties, the kitchen focuses just as much on surf as it does on turf. Full bar. Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; dinner Mon.-Thu. 5-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 5-10:30 p.m.; Sun. 5-9 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed March 19, 1999)

Sundeck Restaurant, 3000 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park (650) 854-2119 A room with a view. There's a world of civility inside The Sundeck's dining room, where Silicon Valley movers and shakers meet to breakfast and lunch. Mon.-Fri. 7:30-9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$\$-\$\$\$ (Reviewed June 15, 2001)

Suraj Indian Cuisine, 2550 El Camino Real, Redwood City (650) 369-8899 The

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six page menu features specialties from the vegetable- and spice-loving regions of southern India. The portions are large and the restaurant is spacious. Mon.-Fri. lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; dinner daily 5:30-10 p.m. \$\$\$ (Reviewed August 8, 1997)

Tacqueria La Bamba, 2058 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View (650) 965-2755 No-frills to the extreme, Taqueria La Bamba has no tables; just a counter. Most people order their food to go. The menu is a wonderful mixture of Mexican and Salvadoran dishes, offering a variety of burritos, tacos, tostadas and daily specials. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed May 1, 2002)

Tapioca Express, 740 Villa St., Mountain View (650) 965-3093 Trendy pearl tea shop with 150 exotic drink choices. Milk teas, fresh juices, smoothies, slushies, and coffee drinks are available at your command. Taiwanese snacks, such as peanut butter toast or spicy, crispy chicken poppers, are also offered. Mon.-Thu., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Friday till midnight; Sunday till 10 p.m. \$ (Reviewed August 23, 2002)

Taxi's, 403 University Ave., Palo Alto (650) 322-TAXI Taxi's has thrown together all the classic kitschy elements of a diner. The menu is basic Americana with a twist: burgers, fries, onion rings, chili dogs, tuna melts, as well as low-fat alternatives. Great place for kids. Mon.-Thu. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-midnight; Sun. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. \$ (Reviewed January 5, 1996)

Tea Era, 271 Castro St., Mountain View (650) 969-2899 Tiny shop with some seating offers a solid selection of pearl tea drinks and other Taiwanese specialty beverages. Tea Era is one of few shops that offers white tapioca pearls, in addition to black. Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sun. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. \$ (Reviewed August 23, 2002)

Tea Time, 542 Ramona St., Palo Alto (650) 328-2877 For the aesthete who can tell an oolong from a Darjeeling with just one whiff, Tea Time in Palo Alto is the place to visit. All of the teas are offered in a mini pot, a 4-cup pot or a 6-cupper, and a variety of tea sandwiches, scones, crumpets and cookies round out the menu. Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (Serving until 5:30 p.m.) \$ (Reviewed May 1, 2002)

Thai City, 3691 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 493-0643 Fresh chilis, coconut milk, sour lemon grass and pungent cilantro are flavors that intermingle beautifully in the dishes served at Thai City. Curry and stir-fry specialties. Large, cavernous dining room, families welcome. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 5-10 p.m., Sun. 5-9 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed May 1, 2002)

Thaiphoon, 543 Emerson St., Palo Alto (650) 323-7700 Formerly known as The New Bamboo, this restaurant offers freshly prepared Vietnamese, Chinese, and Thai food. It may not be gourmet, but Thaiphoon is great value for what it is — decent, healthy Asian-inspired fusion dishes served fast enough to make your head spin. Lunch Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Dinner 5-10 p.m. \$ (Reviewed June 30, 2000)

Tied House Cafe and Brewery, 954 Villa St., Mountain View (650) 965-2739 The generous selection of award-winning beers is reason enough to pay this bustling "beer hall" a visit. This cavernous microbrewery also offers big-screen TV, bar food, pizza, pasta, sausage, garlic onion rings and cheese plates. Mon.-Thu., Sat. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri. 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Bar is open at least 1 hour after the kitchen closes. \$\$ (Reviewed January 27, 1995)

Tony & Alba's Pizza & Pasta, 619 Escuela Ave., Mountain View (650) 968-5089 A true pizza parlor that hand tosses pies and tops them with creative, hearty toppings. Large pizzas here are 20 inches, and the pizza dough is sweet and chewy and resists sogginess — a bonus for takeout or

delivery. Sun.-Thu. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. \$\$ (Reviewed January 26, 2001)

Trader Vic's, 4269 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (650) 849-9800 Part of a worldwide network of restaurants, this Palo Alto outpost is a playground for grown-ups on the Peninsula. Serves exotic dishes of French-

Polynesian descent and boasts a four-page cocktail menu with drinks of every shape and size, served in tiki mugs. Try a Mai Tai — Trader Vic supposedly invented them. Lunch Tue.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Dinner Mon.-Thu. 5-11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight; Sun. 4:30-10 p.m. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$ (Reviewed February 8, 2002)

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Movies

Movie reviews by *Jeanne Aufmuth, Tyler Hanley, Jim Shelby and Susan Tavernetti*

OPENINGS



(l-r) Imelda Staunton, Phillip Davis and Helen Coker co-star in the emotion-packed "Vera Drake."

Vera Drake ★★★★★

(CineArts) Mike Leigh specializes in British working-class dramas ("Secrets and Lies," "Naked") that resonate with human drama and inevitably leave a lasting impression. Thanks to a transcendent performance by the immensely talented Imelda Staunton, "Vera Drake" is no exception.

Staunton portrays the title character with an exuberant bonhomie and can-do attitude. 1950s London is a grim setting, but Vera toils as a cleaning woman for the affluent as if she's chartering her own yacht. She maintains a happy home, cheerfully administering kind words and hearty meals to mechanic hubby Stan (Phil Davis), good-natured son Sid (Daniel Mays) and mousy spinster daughter Ethel (Alex Kelly). Theirs is the Cleaver family of the U.K.

Foremost on Vera's mind is hooking her Ethel up with doleful neighborhood bachelor Reg (Eddie Marsan). Vera's heart of gold also extends to her neighbors — poor disabled folk who get a quick dusting or a spot of tea.

But Vera's agenda involves more than putting on the kettle. Read it somewhere else but not here; I'm reluctant to divulge Vera's shameful Achilles heel for fear of ruining the film's artful ability to spring its ugly little surprise with subtle delineation.

Leigh starkly contrasts his upper and lower classes while focusing on the political grey areas of mid-20th century English morality. As he explores the subtleties of Vera's journey from resolute innocence to the harsh realities of the wrong side of the law, Leigh demonstrates genuine fondness for his plucky lead and the ambiguities of her plight.

There's nothing quite as juicy as the stench of scandal; apple-cheeked Staunton does disgrace genuine justice. Every sentiment in the book is etched on her mobile face as her orderly world crumbles like freshly baked shortbread.

Staunton's career has been bolstered by impressive supporting performances in

"Sense and Sensibility" and "Shakespeare in Love," but "Drake"'s starring role is tailor-made for her, the jewel in the crown of a finely tuned melodrama that positively quakes with emotion.

Rated: R for language and adult situations. 2 hours, 5 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

Being Julia ★★★★★1/2

(Century 16) Let's just give Annette Bening her Oscar. She gives the most captivating performance of her career and at the movies so far this year.

Bening is London stage legend Julia Lambert, a grand dame of the theater and a world-class diva. Julia is hitched to theater producer/Svengali Michael Gosselyn (Jeremy Irons), a dramatic couple for whom the stirring credo "the theater is the only reality" resonates with comic definition.

Julia is near breakdown levels as her hit play continues to pack in audiences. As laugh lines creep around her eyes and her star begins to wane around the edges, Julia begs Michael to shutter the play so she can indulge in the luxuries of sleeping in and drinking beer ("As God is my judge I'll never eat a lettuce leaf again!"). That's the plan until she meets young and ardent admirer cum gold-digger Tom Fennell (Shaun Evans), with whom she begins a torrid affair.

Hello energy! Julia is renewed by the boost to her ego and the sexual appetites of her young lover, who naturally tires of her emotional demands and takes up with two-bit starlet Avice Crichton (Lucy Punch), an ambitious wannabe who worships the ground Julia walks on (a wink and a nudge to "All About Eve").

Unwilling to play patsy, Julia agrees to let Avice audition for her new comedy, going so far as to encourage the girl with script readings and costume suggestions. A dropped comment regarding Avice and



Ben Affleck (foreground) delivers his best performance in seven years in "Surviving Christmas." James Gandolfini co-stars.



Annette Bening delivers an Oscar-worthy performance in "Being Julia."

Michael's burgeoning "friendship" alters the game. Hell hath no fury as a woman scorned and you know what they say: all is fair in love and the theater. Julia's revenge is the sweetest of them all.

Based on W. Somerset Maugham's novella, "Theater," the film represents director István Szabó's rare departure from moody epics ("Sunshine") and a colorful foray into show business. "Julia" is nearly flawless — save for a niggling tendency toward cliché. The tantrums, the country homes, the luxurious period threads and the very English-ness of it all are deliciously and hilariously crafted for maximum payoff.

"Julia"'s razor-sharp wit and her gift of gab is a perfect fit for Bening's theatrical flair. She's a veritable sparkler as she craftily steals the show from under the noses of

her heaven-sent co-stars, including ghostly mentor Michael Gambon, perennial bachelor buddy Bruce Greenwood and dresser/ready ear Juliet Stevenson. Bravo!

Rated: R for sexual situations and language. 1 hour, 45 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

Surviving Christmas ★★1/2

(Century 16, Century 12) Yuletide cheer gets a kick in the shins with this funny but forced cinematic Christmas present. Ben Affleck serves up a remarkably humorous performance as a lonely screwball millionaire, while "Sopranos" phenom James Gandolfini and improv queen Catherine O'Hara balance the quirky comedy with loads of blue-collar charisma.

Eccentric millionaire Drew Latham (Affleck) is facing yet another Christmas alone. Following the advice of a nonchalant psychiatrist, Drew heads back to his childhood home to make peace with his solitude and sorrow. But Drew is desperate for an old-fashioned family Christmas, so when he finds the Valco family living in his old abode, he decides to offer up \$250,000 for a chance to stay with them and celebrate. They accept and Drew's woe becomes a whirlwind of bliss.

But this family has its own problems. The patriarch, Tom (Gandolfini), is a humorless man's man; his wife, Christine (O'Hara), is a downtrodden housewife; and their teenage son, Brian (Josh Zuckerman of "Austin Powers in Goldmember"), spends hours on the computer surfing for porn. When the irritatingly gleeful Drew enters the equation, all hell breaks loose.

Only the Valcos' daughter, Alicia (Christina Applegate), can provide some sanity when she arrives to throw a wrench in Drew's otherwise picture-perfect plan. In true holiday film fashion, romance will

(continued on page 23)

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-KEVIN THOMAS, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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MOVIE TIMES

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| Around the Bend (R) ★★ | Aquarius: 7 & 9:15 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. also at 1, 3 & 5 p.m. |
| Being Julia (R) ★★★1/2 | Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 2:20, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 p.m. |
| The Forgotten (PG-13) ★★★1/2 | Century 16: 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35 & 9:35 p.m. Century 12: 11:45 a.m.; 2:20, 4:35, 6:55 & 9:15 p.m. |
| Friday Night Lights (PG-13) ★★★1/2 | Century 16: 11:50 a.m.; 2:30, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m. Century 12: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 4:55, 7:40 & 10:15 p.m. |
| The Grudge (PG-13) ★★ | Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 1:10, 2, 3:25, 4:30, 5:40, 6:45, 7:55, 9 & 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 12:15, 1:45, 2:35, 4, 5:10, 6:15, 7:30, 8:30 & 9:55 p.m. |
| I ♥ Huckabees (R) ★ | Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 1:55, 4:20, 7:05 & 9:30 p.m. |
| Ladder 49 (PG-13) ★★ | Century 12: 11:30 a.m.; 2, 4:30, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m. |
| Monty Python & the Search for the Holy Grail (PG) (Not Reviewed) | Aquarius: Fri. & Sat. at midnight. |
| The Motorcycle Diaries (R) ★★★1/2 | CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:15, 7 & 10 p.m. |
| Primer (PG-13) ★★★1/2 | Century 16: 7 & 9:15 p.m. |
| Remember Me, My Love (Not Rated) ★★★ | Aquarius: 6:30 & 9:45 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. also at 12:30 & 3:30 p.m. |
| Shall We Dance? (PG-13) ★★★ | Century 16: Noon, 12:50, 2:25, 3:15, 5, 5:45, 7:25, 8:10, 9:45 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: 11:25 a.m.; 12:05, 1:55, 2:55, 4:25, 5:25, 7, 8:05, 9:35 & 10:30 p.m. |
| Shark Tale (PG) ★★★ | Century 16: 11:40 a.m.; 1, 2:35, 3:20, 4:50, 5:30, 7:45 & 10:15 p.m. Century 12: 12:25, 2:50, 5, 7:35 & 9:45 p.m. |
| Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (PG) ★★★ | Century 16: 12:05, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20 & 10 p.m. |
| Stage Beauty (R) ★★★ | Guild: 7 & 9:40 p.m.; Fri. - Sun. also at 4:35 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 2:10 p.m. |
| Surviving Christmas (PG-13) ★★1/2 | Century 16: 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:40 & 9:55 p.m. Century 12: 11:40 a.m.; 1:50, 4:15, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m. |
| Taxi (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 12:35, 3, 5:20, 7:30 & 9:50 p.m. Century 12: 11:55 a.m.; 2:25, 4:40, 7:05 & 9:25 p.m. |
| Team America: World Police (R) ★★★ | Century 16: 11:30 a.m.; 12:45, 1:50, 3:05, 4:25, 5:35, 6:55, 8, 9:10 & 10:20 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 2:30, 4:45, 7:25 & 10 p.m. |
| Vera Drake (R) ★★★★★ | CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 2, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:15 p.m. |
| Woman Thou Art Loosed (R) (Not Reviewed) | Century 16: 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10 & 9:20 p.m. Century 12: 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50 & 10:05 p.m. |

★ Skip it ★★ Some redeeming qualities ★★★ A good bet ★★★★ Outstanding

Aquarius: 430 Emerson St., Palo Alto (266-9260)

Century Cinema 16: 1500 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View (960-0970)

Century Park 12: 557 E. Bayshore Blvd., Redwood City (365-9000)

Guild: 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (266-9260)

CinéArts at Palo Alto Square: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

Spangenberg: 780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto (354-8220)

Stanford: 221 University Ave., Palo Alto (324-3700)

Internet address: For show times, plot synopses trailers and more information about films playing, visit Palo Alto Online at <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/>

NOW PLAYING

The following is a sampling of movies recently reviewed in the Weekly:

Primer ★★★1/2
(Century 16) With a non-budget of \$7,000 and a Super 16 camera, former engineer and self-taught filmmaker Shane Carruth makes a riveting "can-do" debut with enough credits to fill a cinematic spec

sheet. His sci-fi mindbender once again proves that good filmmaking is all about the fundamentals. Compelling characters, good performances and an intriguing story — not expensive packaging — make the movie. This Sundance Grand Prize winner is the perfect fit for Silicon Valley filmgoers: It's a start-up production about a start-up company. Engineers Aaron (Carruth) and Abe (David Sullivan) are working on a promising invention; they know that they're on to something but

don't have an application. Curiosity and the lure of scientific discovery lead to more experimentation. That's when the narrative takes off into the Twilight Zone. From nonstop tech talk to brainstorming to scrounging for parts and crashing on couches and carpets, Carruth nails the atmosphere. A back-to-basics indie upstart that gets the job done well. *Rated: PG-13 for brief language. 1 hour, 18 minutes.* — J.A. (Reviewed Oct. 15, 2004)

Shall We Dance? ★★★
(Century 16, Century 12) Neither the movie nor the dance moves break new ground, but there's something satisfying about watching this feel-good formula. The protagonist is estate attorney John Clark (Richard Gere), a family man who has it all but asks himself, "Is that it, then?" Something is missing in his life, and he feels guilty for even thinking about it. Too busy to make a movie date, his wife (Susan Sarandon) kids that they might have a moment to look at the ads in the paper together. Routinely taking the Chicago "L" home from work, John gazes up to catch Paulina (Jennifer Lopez) standing sadly in the window of Miss Mitzi's Dance School. Before you can say "Fred Astaire," he's signing up for ballroom dancing lessons. Think you know what a male mid-life crisis and an attractive single woman adds up to? You may be surprised. The movie offers advice for the mass of men, who in Thoreau's words, "lead lives of quiet desperation": Dancing might make you and yours happy. *Rated: PG-13 for some sexual references and brief language. 1 hour, 46 minutes.* — S.T. (Reviewed Oct. 15, 2004)

Stage Beauty ★★★
(Guild) The English Restoration shines

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OPENINGS

(continued from page 21)

blossom, fences will mend and lifelong friendships will be formed — that is, if everyone doesn't kill each other first.

Affleck puts in his best performance since 1997's "Chasing Amy." He plays Drew like a young child enchanted by the energy of Christmas — after downing a bucket of colored sugar. Hilarious turns by Gandolfini and O'Hara and the confident presence of Applegate make for a perfectly rounded and entertaining cast.

"Surviving Christmas" may not fall into the holiday-classic category; it falters in the third act, force-feeding laughs and schmaltz. Still, to see Affleck finally segue from his downward-spiraling career is a treat.

Rated: PG-13 for sexual content, language and a brief drug reference. 1 hour, 31 minutes.

— Tyler Hanley

Around the Bend ★★

(Aquarius) An appealing performance by the underrated Josh Lucas can't save this well-meaning indie from a mawkish TV-movie of the week glow.

Lucas is Jason Lair, one of four generations of Lair males who pepper the landscape of this precocious coming-of-age weeper. Jason's family has its quirks — an aging grandfather (Michael Caine as Henry) with adventure on the brain, a zany Danish nurse who gives grandpa palpitations and a precocious son (Jonah Bobo as Zach) who takes it all in.

When absentee dad Turner (Christopher Walken) lands on Jason's doorstep, it's a too-many-cooks-spoil-the-broth situation. Henry's dying wish is to reunite his errant son and beloved grandson, but his methods are highly unconventional: a note that stipulates Zach can only receive his inheritance if the surviving Lair men follow a crudely constructed treasure map detailing a cross-country jaunt to a series of KFC restaurants.

The chicken is finger-lickin' good but the vibe is strained. As the boys come to terms with loads of dirty laundry, a family cohesion builds. Cheap laughs crowd thick sentiment and the inevitable male-bonding that's along for the ride.

"Bend" tries hard to be lovable — too hard. Its earnest script, cute kid close-ups, and togetherness sensibility ("A family carries each other; I carried you, you carried me, we have to carry him") is alternately touching and grating.

A poignant performance by Lucas embodies resentment and forgiveness, Caine's turn is short but sweet, and Walken doesn't miss a beat in his ongoing pursuit of quintessential weirdness.

Rookie director Jordan Roberts has a lot to learn

about side-stepping the Hallmark card mentality and letting natural emotions flow. Thumb sideways for the effort.

Rated: R for strong profanity. 1 hour, 25 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

The Grudge ★★

(Century 16, Century 12) If you thrilled to "The Ring" you're sure to delight in "The Grudge," an artsy thriller that maintains a Japanese horror sensibility while catering to gullible American audiences.

I am not a fan. There are only so many times I can watch a naive cast member climb a steep and creepy staircase to locate a mysterious sound and still retain an air of suspended disbelief.

A minimal, stylish look and sinister atmosphere support a ho-hum storyline and a pedestrian script. Sarah Michelle Gellar (TV's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer") is up front-and-center as happy-go-lucky Kate, an American exchange student in Tokyo who's volunteering at a care center for that all-important social welfare credit.

Her first assignment is to cover for a fellow caregiver who didn't show up to work. Little does Kate know her predecessor has already been out to the Williams residence and found ghosts.

Not just any ghosts, but the vengeful spirits of a wife and child who were murdered in a jealous rage by their husband/father. They haunt their former abode with an eerie and spiteful presence, persuading all who cross their threshold to commit suicide.

Director Takashi Shimizu (who also directed the Japanese original "Ju-On: The Grudge") makes the most of his American debut. With cobwebbed attics, mysterious wet footprints and scraggly black-haired wraiths who float into view when you least expect them, the chain of terror is set in motion and nothing can stop it. Except, perhaps, a freshly scrubbed coed.

I could be a believer if the film's characters weren't such obese gluttons for punishment. Why don't they just run? If they did we wouldn't be paying our hard-earned dollars to sit in a darkened theater and be terrorized by someone else's stupidity.

Rated: PG-13 for jumpy moments and gore. 1 hour, 36 minutes.

— Jeanne Aufmuth

To view the trailers for "Surviving Christmas," and "The Grudge," visit Palo Alto Online at <http://www.PaloAltoOnline.com/>

Search our database!

Go to PaloAltoOnline.com for expanded movie information, including more than 1,900 movie reviews dating back to 1994. Read our critics' reviews, view movie trailers and find out film ratings (and the reasons for them) and more using "Movie Screener."



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every bit the star in this gender-bender of a love story. Billy Crudup sizzles as Edward Kynaston, the most beautiful "woman" on the English stage circa 1661. The reason: 17th-century theater was a male-dominated arena, a men-only club when it came to public performance. At the urging of his cheeky mistress, Nell Gwyn (Zoe Tapper), the flamboyant and fun-loving King Charles II (Rupert Everett) switches gears in a fit of royal pique and commands that the stage be henceforth an equal-opportunity craft. Raised to be theatrically female, Kynaston's career hits the skids — something akin to the advent of talkies for silent-film stars. Kynaston's dutiful dresser, Maria (the talented Claire Danes), comes to the rescue. Giddy from the smashing response to her own stage debut, her deep feelings for Kynaston nonetheless embolden her to persuade him to reinvent himself for the male roles that are up for grabs. Flawed but fascinating, "Stage Beauty" is a handsome kaleidoscope of adult-themed pleasures.
Rated: R for sexual situations and nudity. 1 hour, 45 minutes. — J.A. (Reviewed Oct. 15, 2004)

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Movies

STANFORD THEATRE

The Stanford Theatre is running a Marlon Brando Film Festival. The theatre is located at 221 University Ave. in Palo Alto. Screenings are for Friday through Sunday only. The theatre is closed on Monday and Tuesday. For more information call (650) 324-3700.

The Men (1950) Marlon Brando's success on Broadway during the run of "Streetcar" led to many Hollywood offers, but he chose for his film debut this moving film about a young soldier adjusting to postwar life as a paraplegic. To prepare for his role, he reportedly spent two weeks living in a paraplegic hospital ward. **Fri. - Sun. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. also at 3:40 p.m.**

A Face in the Crowd (1957) Director Elia Kazan and screenwriter Budd Schulberg take on the power of media personalities and political influence. Andy Griffith is impressive in his first movie as Lonesome Rhodes, whose down-home persona and philosophizing make him a television sensation with a promising voice in politics. But his country bumpkin facade hides something quite different. **Fri. - Sun. at 5:15 & 9:05 p.m.**

SPANGENBERG THEATRE

Note: The Spangenberg Theatre is located on the Gunn High School campus, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Screenings are for Friday through Sunday only. Tickets for all other screenings are \$5. For more information please visit www.spangenbergtheatre.com or call (650) 354-8220.

Open Water (2004) Daniel and Susan (Daniel Travis and Blanchard Ryan) leave their frazzled careers behind for a last-minute scuba trip to an unspecified Caribbean resort. But an absent-minded head count results in the couple being stranded in open water, shark bait for the encroaching predators. Hours of treading chilling sea water and pinning the baggage of blame on each other takes its toll. **Fri. at 5:45 p.m. & Sat. at 1:15 p.m.**

What the Bleep Do We Know? (2004) Amanda (Marlee Matlin) finds herself in a fantastic Alice in Wonderland experience when her daily, uninspired life literally begins to unravel, revealing the uncertain world of the quantum field hidden behind what we consider to be our normal, waking reality. **Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. at 3:15 p.m. & Sun. at 7 p.m.**

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Goings On

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Special Events

Bloomingdale's Shopping Benefit TheatreWorks will participate in Bloomingdale's 8th Annual Shopping Benefit. Tue., Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., customers may purchase a \$10 charity ticket for 15-20% off everything in the store. Proceeds benefit 7 local charities. Bloomingdale's, Stanford Shopping Center, Stanford. Call 463-2167. www.bloomingdales.com; www.theatreworks.org.

"Buy a Little MOAH" at Museum Garage Sale Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. purchase interesting and historical items, including duplicate items from the MOAH collection and selected items donated especially for this fundraising sale. Free admission. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org.

Fall Choir Concert Join William Liberator, director of Gunn High School Treble choir for this fall concert, featuring Chamber singers, Thu., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. \$5 adult; \$3 students. Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 354-8287.

Halloween Dance Party Prizes for best costumes. Free treats, Fri., Oct. 29. Nightclub Two Step dance lesson, 8-9 p.m. Party 9 p.m.-midnight. \$6. Costumes not required. Cubberley Commu-

nity Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 856-9930. www.geocities.com/fridaynightdance.

SLAC Public Lecture Series: The Runaway Universe Roger Blandford, Director of the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics, will explore the contents of our Universe, Tue., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Free. Bring photo ID. SLAC Campus, Panofsky Auditorium, 2575 Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 926-2204. www.slac.stanford.edu/lectures.

Benefits

Palo Alto Ploozza: A Benefit Concert for Autism A night of original music to benefit autism research, performers include: Jen Walsh, Josh and Laura Stika, Las Lutas, Lindi Wiggins, and a combined choir of 3rd grade students from the Palo Alto School district. Sat., Oct. 23, 8:30 p.m., \$10 donation suggested. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 380-1300.

2004 Witches Ball A charity masquerade ball to benefit The Humane Society of Silicon Valley. Theme is the "Mysteries of The Silk Road." Sat., Oct. 23, 6-11 p.m. Non-alcoholic family-friendly event. Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.fullcircleevents.org.

Harvest Festival: Ohlone School Celebrate twenty years of outdoor learning at our Harvest Festival. Activities for all ages games, crafts, rummage sale, live music, bake sale, water balloon toss and more, Sat., Oct. 23. Call for time. Ohlone School's Farm, 950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto. Call 856-1726.

Concerts

Bluegrass Music Concert Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum plus members of their "Guest House" band. Tickets: \$15/advance, \$18/day of show. Sat., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Call 691-9982. www.rba.org.

California Bach Society: Oracles and Oedipus Sat., Oct. 23, 8 p.m., lecture 7:15 p.m., Lasso's intense, chromatic setting of the Sibyls predicting the birth of Jesus in the Prophetiae Sibyllarum and Gabrieli's settings of the choruses from Sophocles' Oedipus Tyrannus in I Chori D'Edipo Tiranno, General \$25/Senior \$18/Student \$12 All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.calbach.org.

Echoes of England Schola Cantorum and his 125 voice choir will sing sacred and secular music by John Rutter, Sat., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. \$22 students. \$18 seniors. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 254-1700. www.scholacantorum.org.

Inspired by America Concert The Palo Alto Philharmonic presents Inspired by America at 8 p.m., Sat., Oct. 23 featuring Barber's First Essay for Orchestra; Copeland's Rodeo (four episodes); Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World," and Actor's Redwood Fanfare. Tickets, \$5-\$14 on the web, \$2 more at the door. Season tickets. are \$20-\$56. Cubberley Theatre, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 857-0737. www.paphil.org.

Jazz: From Duet to Quartet Community School of Music and Arts presents its "Music@6, Faculty and Friends" concert series "Jazz: From Duet to Quartet." Bob Johnson, sax, Jim Kassis, percussion and drums, Rich Kuhns, accordion and keyboards, and Jim Witzel, guitar, Wed., Oct. 27, 6 p.m. \$8 general admission; \$4. student and seniors. Limited seating. Community School of Music and Arts at Finn Center, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Call 917-6800 ext. 335. www.arts4all.org/tickets.

Kathreen Ahn Piano Recital Kathreen Ahn will perform Liszt's "Rigoletto Paraphrase," Beethoven's "Appassionata" Sonata, and works by Bach, Haydn and Chopin. Sat., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Admission \$15 general, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. Wesley United Methodist Church, 470 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto. Call 961-4910.

Naoya Kanai, 'cello A student recital featuring Brahms' Sonata in F major, Britten's Suite for Cello, and Schubert's Sonata in a minor (Arpeggione). Fri., Oct. 22, 8 p.m. Free. Campbell Recital Hall, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 723-2720. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html.

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra Concert PACO will open its 39th season performance with a diverse concert program music from the Mozart to the modern tango of Buenos Aires dance halls. Pianist Julie Steinberg and Soprano Anja Strauss will perform, Sat., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 students. Spangenberg Theater, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 856-3848. www.pacomusic.org.

Peninsula Pops Concert Conductor Kim Venaas presents a fast-paced show of musical surprises and great pops music, featuring Todd Summers and the Titans, the Gunn High School Band, Sun., Oct. 24, 3 p.m. \$15 adult; \$12 senior; \$8 student; children 10 and under free with parents. Discount tickets available. A family-friendly show to make you smile.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

CALENDAR. Information for Weekly and Master Community Calendar listings must now be submitted online. Please go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com, click on "Master Community Calendar," and then click on "Submit a listing." Listings are published in the papers on a space-available basis.

NEWS. The online form is for Calendar listings only. To submit information for possible use elsewhere in the paper, send it

For complete Calendar listings, go to www.PaloAltoOnline.com and click on "Master Community Calendar."

the usual way: e-mail editor@pawebly.com; fax (650) 326-3928, Attn: Editor; or mail to Editor, Palo Alto Weekly, 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94301.



QUESTIONS? If you have questions, call the reception desk at the Palo Alto Weekly between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays, (650) 326-8210. After hours, you may press zero and leave a message in the general mailbox.



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Spangenberg Theatre, Gunn High School, 780 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto. Call 856-3104. www.peninsulapops.org.

St. Lawrence String Quartet with Claude Frank, piano The quartet performs Beethoven's Quartet in Eb, Op. 127; pianist Claude Frank performs Schumann's Scenes from Childhood, Op. 15 and is joined by the quartet for Schumann's Piano Quintet in Eb, Sun., Oct. 24, 2:30 p.m. \$20; \$10 student. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Ave., Stanford. Call 723-2720. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html.

Stanford Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert, Dir. Jindong Cai Annual Halloween romp with spooky music, strangely-dressed people and a prize for the best costume, Sun., Oct. 31, 8 p.m. Proceeds to benefit SSO's 2004 tours. \$10; \$5. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Ave., Stanford. Call 723-2720. music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html.

Live Music

Bluegrass Jamboree Bluegrass artists Laurie Lewis and Tom Rozum will perform, Sat., Oct. 23, 8 p.m. \$15 advance. \$18 at the door. 13-18 half-price under 13 free. Doors open, 7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View, 1667 Miramonte Ave., Mountain View. Call 691-9982. www.rba.org.

On Stage

"La Clemenza di Tito" by Mozart Mozart's last opera, La Clemenza di Tito, portrays love, intrigue, and revolution in ancient Rome presented in "Concert Version" with West Bay Opera Orchestra. Fri., Oct. 22, 8 p.m.; Sun., Oct. 24, 2 p.m. Tickets \$36, Youth under 17 and students with ID \$18. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 424-9999. www.wbopera.org.

"Living Out" TheatreWorks opens its 35th season with "Living Out" written by award-winning playwright Lisa Loomer, through Oct. 31. \$20/\$50. Call for performance times. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 903-6000. www.theatreworks.org.

Opera Preview Lectures San Francisco Opera Guild, So. Peninsula Chapter. Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. "Le Grand Macabre," \$8-\$10. Tickets at door. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 329-1374.

That's All Folks Adapted by local playwright Tom Carter, a presentation of tales from around the world Yiddish stories, Egypt, France, Cameroon, Vietnam, and the Micmac tribe of native Americans, Oct. 26-Nov. 6, 6-7 p.m.; Oct. 24, 26, Nov. 2, 2 p.m. \$10 adult; \$8 student. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 947-2796.

"The Comedy of Errors" Shakespeare's hilarious farce, set in ancient Rome, centers around two sets of lost twins, separated in their youth, trying to find one another. Oct. 22-23, 7 p.m., Oct. 24, 1 p.m., \$5 students, \$7 adults. Menlo Middle School Commons, 50 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton. Call 330-2001 ext. 2493. www.menloschool.org.

Exhibits

Cantor Arts Center "Finding Sellaio," conservation of a Renaissance panel painting, through Nov. 28; "Question: An experiment that provokes questions about art and its presentation in museums," through Jan. 2; "Women on the Verge: The Culture of Neurasthenia in Nineteenth-Century America," through Feb. 6. Hours: Wed.-Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu., 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Call 723-4177. ccva.stanford.edu.

Computer History Museum Tours The Visible Storage exhibit displays technology advances from pre-computing to super-computing. Hour-long tours on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Reservations recommended. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. Call 810-1013. www.computerhistory.org.

Green Library "Ira Nowinski: The Photographer As Witness" Highlights the Stanford University Library's holdings of San Francisco-based photographer Nowinski, and his series of works focusing on Holocaust memorials and sites, and the lives of Jewish émigrés in San Francisco and abroad. Through Nov. 30 Green Library, Stanford University, 557 Escondido Mall, Stanford. Call 725-1020, information. www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/spc/exhibits/africanmaps.html.

"Inside/Outside" Artworks by local artist, Anthony Montanino. Large scale oil paintings of interiors, figures, and the suburban landscape. Through Nov. 19. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or by

(continued on next page)

OF NOTE



Tickling the ivories

Pianist Kathreen Ahn will perform on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 470 Cambridge Ave. in Palo Alto. The program will include Beethoven's "Appassionata" Sonata, Liszt's "Rigoletto Paraphrase" and works by Bach, Haydn and Chopin. The concert is sponsored by the Palo Alto branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California. Tickets are \$15 general; \$12 seniors and \$10 students. For more information please call (650) 961-4910.

(continued from previous page)

arrangement. Castilleja School, 1311 Emerson Street, Palo Alto. Call 328-3160 x406.

Menlo Art League - Annual Exhibit Through Oct. 30. Charlotte Britton, will jury the show. Public welcome. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 856-1209.

Mountain View Center Joan Hancock, acrylic paintings, through Jan. 3. Mon., Wed., Fri., noon-1 p. m., and one hour prior to public performances. Mountain View Center, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.mvcpa.com.

Number, Please?: The Evolution of the Telephone The evolution of the telephone and its interaction with society are the subject of MOAH's exhibit. View the telephonic march of progress: from the first crude instruments to sophisticated cell phones and Internet voice technology of today. Free admission. Open Fri.-Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. or by private tour. Ongoing through Jan. 30, 2005. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org.

Pacific Art League "Pacific Prints," through Nov. 30, Main Gallery. Students of Alan May, through Oct. 31; Students of Robin Scholl, Nov. 1-30. Studio One. Pacific Art League, 668 Ramona St., Palo Alto. Call 321-3891. www.pacificartleague.org.

Palo Alto Art Center Through Jan. 2, "Revisiting the Mirror: Self Portraits through time," "To Mirror History: Ian Everard and Hanna Hannah," Dominic Di Mare: Other Selves." Tue.-Sat. from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thu. from 7-9 p.m.; Sun. from 1-5 p.m. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 329-2366. www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter.

Stevenson House: Art Show. A show of the residents' "Painterly Monoprints" through Oct. 22. Stevenson House, 455 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto. Call 494-1944.

USGS Photo Contest winners Winners of the 2004 USGS Employee Photo Contest are on display through Oct. 28. Over 75 black and white and color photos in 4 categories are on display on the first-floor hallway in building 3. Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Public welcome. U.S. Geological Survey, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park.

"Votes for Women: Unfinished Business" How the women's suffrage movement spread leading to the 1920 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, through Nov. 21. Los Altos History Museum, 51 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Call 948-9427 x10. www.losaltoshistory.org.

Talks/Authors

Talk, "New Ideas for Lifetime Gardening" A talk by Ed Holm, Tue., Oct. 26, 1 p.m. No charge and refreshments are served after the program. Menlo Park Public Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 856-7921.

Book Signing and Talk Children's author Antoinette McElroy will discuss and sign her new book "Emma and Me," Sat., Oct. 23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Linden Tree Children's Recordings and Books, 170 State Street, Los Altos. Call 949-3390. linden treebooks.com.

Every Shut Eye Ain't Sleep: Positioning Culture at Center Stage in Learning A talk by Professor Carol D. Lee. will discuss how cultural practices can inform approaches to learning, teaching, and educational policy. Free. Reception follows. Tue., Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m. Center for Educational Research at Stanford (CERAS) Building, Alvarado Row and Abbott Way, Stanford. Call 724-9440. ed.stanford.edu.

Gary Snyder "Danger on Peaks" Meet poet and author Gary Snyder who will discuss and sign his latest collection of poems, "Dangers on Peak," Fri., Oct. 22, 7:30. Kepler's Book Store, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com.

"Gown and Town: How to Build a Super Library" Former University Librarian and current professor Dr. Jim Schmidt will discuss the acclaimed new university/city library in San Jose. Wed., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Free. Refreshments. Sponsored by Friends of the Palo Alto Library. Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell

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Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900



EYE CARE NEWS



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DISPOSABLE CONTACTS

First introduced in 1987, disposable contacts have gone on to become the most common type of contact lenses. Offering a variety of health and convenience benefits, disposable contacts are designed to be worn for a specific period, then thrown out and replaced with a fresh set. The term "disposable" often refers to both disposable and frequent replacement lenses. While disposable contact lenses are discarded and replaced daily or every two weeks, planned replacement contacts are replaced monthly or quarterly. It is important to note that "replacement schedule" refers to how often lenses are discarded and replaced (whether

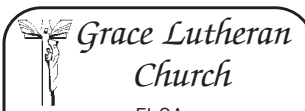
Inspirations

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650-494-1212

8:00 am - Worship Service
10:30 am - Worship Service
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5:00 pm - Jazz Vespers
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Rev. Randall K. Wilburn
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Sermon for Saturday, October 23:
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Worship: Saturday 11:00 am
Prayer Meeting: Wednesday 7:30 pm
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Goings On

Road, Palo Alto. Call 327-6151. www.friendspaloaltolib.org.

Humanist Forum "Humanism of the Future", a talk by Lois Kellerman, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. Mitchell Park Center, 3800 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 328-6659. www.humanists.org.

Isaac Saney: "Cuba: A Revolution in Motion" Author and teacher Isaac Saney will discuss and sign his new book "Cuba," Tue., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. \$5-10; donations to benefit PPJC. Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street, Palo Alto. Call 326-8837. www.peaceandjustice.org.

Kepler's Writing Workshop Focuses on getting and keeping our pens moving, includes challenging exercises and supportive dialogue, Sun., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com.

PARC Forum Series on Innovation Paul Saffo, of Institute for the Future, will discuss "Technology Futures," Thu., Oct. 28, 4 p.m. Palo Alto Research Center, 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto. Call 812-4000. www.parc.com.

Ronald Rosberg Meet KGO Radio's Gadget Guru, Ronald Rosberg to get the inside scoop on the latest products to hit the market, Thu., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. \$10 member; \$20 Non-Member arrive at 6:30 p.m. Registration 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. Networking For reservations call 800-847-7730 Microsoft Corporation, Mountain View Campus, 1065 La Avenida, Mountain View. Call (408) 351-3470.

San Francisco Opera Guild Dan Kessler, writer and lecturer will present a lecture/musical overview of Ligeti's opera "Le Grand Macabre" Tue., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at the door. \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 329-1374.

Susan Isaacs Meet author and book reviewer Susan Isaacs who will sign and discuss her latest book "Any Place I Hang My Hat," Wed., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Kepler's Book Store, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com.

Tobias Wolff Local author Tobias Wolff will discuss and sign his new book "Old School," Thu., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com.

Watch Talking with Henrietta "Racing for the State Assembly" Steve Poizner and Ira Ruskin in a no holds barred discussion. Fri., Oct. 22, 11 a.m.; Sun., Oct. 24, 4:30 p.m.; Mon., Oct. 25, 7:30 a.m. Channel 27, check listings. Call 327-5846, ext. 311. www.communitymediacenter.net.

Family and Kids

After school Special: Halloween Spooktacular. Scary skits, stories, puppets and surprises. Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m., for children in grades K-5. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Basic Electric Circuits Class In the hands-on sessions, the student builds a battery-operated system including switches, lamps, an audio sounder, and a pair of batteries. Ages: 10 and up. Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13, 10 a.m.-noon. \$25 (museum members)/\$35 (non-members) Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org.

Halloween Haunts Spooktacular, a Halloween treat for the family activities include, a pumpkin walk to collect treats and up the spooky trail, stories and songs around the campfire, Sat., Oct. 30 and Sun. Oct. 31. \$15 children; \$18 adult. Reservations required. Hidden Villa Farm and Wilderness Preserve, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos. Call 949-8653. www.hiddenvilla.org.

Halloween J-I-N-G-O Bring the kids for J-I-N-G-O, an exciting, educational and fun-filled game, played like BINGO, Fri., Oct. 29, 4 p.m. Children 5 and up. Win Prizes. Registration. Atherton Library, #2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422. www.smcl.org.

Halloween Kids Night Out Gym Party Gymnastics, art, pizza and games, Sat., Oct. 23, 7-9:30 p.m. Face paint provided, costumes optional. Wear appropriate clothing for tumbling; register in advance; must have signed liability registration forms on file, and must be 5-17 years old. \$25. Proceeds to benefit the Gold Star Rhythmic Team. Gold Star Gymnastics,

(continued on next page)

**Gown & Town:
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Jim Schmidt

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(continued from previous page)

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Mondays at the Library Bring the children to see Woodin, the magician, astound the audience with his amazing magic tricks, Mon., Oct. 25, 4 p.m. Free. Halloween treats. All ages welcome. Atherton Library, #2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422. www.smcl.org.

Musical Storytime Every Wed. through Nov. 17, 4 p.m. All ages. Free. Atherton Library, #2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 328-2422. www.smcl.org.

Parents Nursery School Carnival Bring family and friends for activities include: costume and craft sale, family entertainment, food, magician, bake sale, silent auction, and games. Drawing. Costumes welcome. Sun., Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Parents Nursery School, 2328 Louis Road, Palo Alto. Call 856-9366 or 856-1440.

PBC Harvest Fest Come and celebrate fall at PBC's Harvest Fest activities include games, crafts, food, prizes, and fun for all elementary age kids and younger, Sat., Oct. 30, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$2 person or \$5 family with a canned good donation. Friendly costumes are welcomed. Peninsula Bible Church, 3505 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 494-3840 ext. 18. www.pbc.org.

Preschool Story time Story time for children ages 3-5, Fridays, 11:30 a.m. Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto.

Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Preschool Story time Story time for children ages 3-5, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Preschool Story time Story time for children ages 3-5, Wednesdays, 11 a.m. College Terrace Library, 2300 Wellesley St., Palo Alto. Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Pumpkin Party Pumpkin stories, songs, painting and carving. Treats will be served, Wed., Oct. 27, 3 p.m. Bring your own pumpkin. All ages welcome. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Toddler Story time Story time for children ages 18 months-3 Fridays, 10 a.m. Mitchell Park Library, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Toddler Story time Story times for children ages 18 months-3, Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 329-2134. www.cityofpaloalto.org/library/kids-teens.

Seniors

Broadway show: The Producers Matinee performance of the acclaimed Mel Brooks musical at the Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco. Some walking. Wed., Oct. 27. Call for cost and departure times. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 326-5362. www.avenidas.org.

Health

Breath experience An opportunity to work with our natural breath for better health and well-being; meets every Tue. 6-7:30 p.m. \$10 per class. Downtown Palo Alto, 220B University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 322-1312. www.breathexperience.com.

Dealing with Perfectionism Perfectionism is a trait that can lead to conflicts with colleagues, difficulty with time management, and personal stress. 2-part class, Anna Ranieri, PhD, will explain what perfectionism is, how it develops, and what to do when it gets in the way of work and life. Oct. 25 and Nov. 8, noon-1p.m., \$40. Hoover Pavilion, 211 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 725-4416. hip.stanford.edu.

Forgive for Good Forgiveness can reduce hostility, depression, and anxiety while increasing hopefulness, self-confidence, and physical well being. Conducted by Fred Luskin, PhD, will include lecture, discussion, and guided practice teaching practical ways to use forgiveness. Oct. 26-Nov. 16, 5:45-7:50 p.m., \$210. Hoover Pavilion, 211 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 725-4416. hip.stanford.edu.

Healthy Eating for Life Nutritionist Joyce Hanna will discuss how and why our nutritional needs change and practical ways to modify our diet to ensure we are getting the nutrients we need. Oct. 27, noon-1:15 p.m., \$15. Hoover Pavilion, 211 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 725-4416. hip.stanford.edu.

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Tuesday, November 2, 2004
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795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto
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Call 650-853-4873 for reservations.

Goings On

"Pregnant with Possibilities: Options, Opportunities in Early Pregnancy" Tue., Oct. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m., discussing nutrition, exercise, physical/emotional changes and the life of the unborn child. \$65/couple. Blossom Birth Services, 1000 Elwell Court, Palo Alto. Call 964-7380. www.blossombirth.com.

The Promise of Stem Cell Research Michael Goldberg, entrepreneur in life science industries; Dr. Richard Miller, Clinical Professor of Medicine (Oncology) at Stanford Medical Center; and Rabbi Josh Zweiback of Congregation Beth Am as they discuss the scientific, religious and ethical perspectives of stem-cell research. Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 494-1923.

Wisdom Therapy: Reducing Anxiety and Anger 4-wk class, with Shani Robins, PhD, learn skills for reducing one's anger and anxiety. Nov. 1-22, 6:30-8 p.m., \$100. Hoover Pavilion, 211 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 725-4416. hip.stanford.edu.

Classes/Workshops

Aikido At Noon Aikido is the Art of Peace, a martial art developed to stop the fighting. It is a way to reconcile the world. Class every Mon. and Wed. noon-1p.m. Beginners welcome. Burgess Gymnastics Center, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 329-9007. www.aikido-at-noon.com.

Baby Music and Movement II (4 - 14 months) Thursdays, Oct. 28-Nov. 18, 9-9:50 a.m. with Kitty Pecka, MA. Music for babies to foster early brain development and fun, \$60 for 4 sessions. Pre-registration required. Parents Place, 410 Sherman Ave., Palo Alto. Call 688-3040. www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

Boys and Relationships, ages 3-8 Tue., Nov. 9, 7-9 p.m. with Jomary Hilliard, Ph.D. Learn how boys relate to each other, girls, parents and other adults, and what they need to be successful in relationships. \$30. Pre-registration required. Parents Place, 410 Sherman Ave., Palo Alto. Call 688-3040. www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org.

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FLORENCE BARRETT NEAL



Florence Barrett Neal, a retired teacher and long-time Palo Alto resident, was busily preparing a presentation for the upcoming meeting of the Santa Clara County Reading Association when she suffered a severe stroke. She died Monday, October 11, at Stanford Hospital with family present. She was 88. As a teacher and reading specialist in East Palo Alto, Florence Neal had questioned some of the ways children with special needs were being taught to read. So she developed a method of her own that she called "livising." She coined the term to reflect a combined emphasis on listening and visual skills. It was suggested to her that people would be more likely to consider her thinking if she completed a master's degree in education and, at age 59, she went to graduate school to refine her methods. She completed her master's degree in 1981, the year before she retired from teaching. Since then she has continued to write and talk about her ideas at conferences and meetings throughout the world.

Florence Barrett was born on January 30th, 1916 in Kelowna, British Columbia while her extended family was in the process of emigrating from Manchester England to the United States. By the time she was six, most of the family had settled in "North Palo Alto" (now an area of Menlo Park). A musician's daughter, she attended Peninsula School because it was where "the arts were

emphasized." She later attended Sequoia High School, San Jose State University, and Hayward State University. She began teaching elementary school, but the Second World War broke out and she became a host at Fort Ord Military Base. She took a fifteen-year break from teaching to raise her two sons and then returned to teaching in the East Palo Alto schools as a special needs teacher and reading specialist. She worked there until her retirement in 1982. For Florence, retirement meant the opportunity to continue working on her method of teaching reading, to travel, and to spend extensive time with her grandchildren. Florence was also a devoted member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church community for more than 50 years where she sang in the choir and participated in numerous other ways.

Florence Neal was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She was preceded in death by her husband of thirty-nine years, Chester G. Neal, Sr., who died in 1983. She will be dearly missed by her two sons, Chester G. Neal and his wife Pamela Mitchell of Palo Alto and John H. Neal and his wife Lorchen Heft of Santa Cruz, as well as by her three grandchildren, Kristin Mitchell of New York, Sam Heft-Neal of Berkeley, and Molly Heft-Neal of Santa Cruz. She is also survived by numerous nieces, great nieces, and a great nephew who were very special to her.

For those who wish and are able to attend, there will be a memorial service on Sunday, October 24th at 4 PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 670 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto. In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donations be made to the following organizations that were most special to Florence or to a charity of your choice.

The Building Fund
Covenant Presbyterian Church
670 E Meadow Dr
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(650) 494-1760

The Trust For Hidden Villa
26870 Moody Rd
Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 949-8650

Peninsula School
920 Peninsula Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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PALO ALTO

| | |
|---|---|
| Avenidas Senior Center | 450 Bryant Street / 326-5362 |
| Palo Alto Medical Foundation Patient Service Center (first floor) | 795 El Camino Real / 853-5735 |
| City Hall (first floor lobby) | 250 Hamilton Avenue / 329-2100 |
| *Regional Water Quality Control Plant | 2501 Embarcadero Way (M-F, 8am-4pm). For Palo Alto residents only: Next Household Hazardous Waste Events Saturday, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4 (9am-noon) |

MOUNTAIN VIEW

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mountain View Senior Center | 266 Escuela Avenue / 903-6330 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|

LOS ALTOS

| | |
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| City Hall | 1 N. San Antonio Road / 947-2780 |
| Los Altos Senior Center | 97 Hillview Avenue / 947-2894 |

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| Town Hall | 26379 Fremont Road / 941-7222 |
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Sports Shorts

OAKS' CORNER . . . The Menlo College football program has been accepted into the Northwest Conference as an affiliate member. The Oaks will join current members Lewis and Clark, Linfield, Willamette, Pacific Lutheran, Puget Sound and Whitworth . . . Menlo (1-3) hosts Whitworth in its homecoming game on Saturday at noon. The Oaks have lost three of four games played with the Pirates, including a 30-24 setback last year in Spokane. Freshman quarterback **Dustin Guglielmelli**, who threw for 92 yards in relief of **Adam Hazel** in Menlo's 32-22 loss to Cal Lutheran two weeks ago, will get his first career start . . . The Menlo College women's volleyball team swept a pair of nonconference games on Tuesday, beating Vassar College, 30-20, 30-20, 30-19, before knocking off host UC Santa Cruz, 33-20, 30-26, 26-30, 19-30, 19-17. Senior **Cindy Epps** recorded 19 kills against Vassar, while junior **Kari Shimomura** had 17 against the Banana Slugs. **Christa Hewett** recorded a phenomenal 41 digs against UC Santa Cruz while freshman setter **Alyssa Chang** had a combined 92 assists in the two matches. Menlo (14-2 overall) hosts Holy Names College on Friday at 7 p.m. in a California Pacific Conference match . . . The Menlo College men's soccer team lost to Holy Names, 3-1, on Monday and dropped a 2-1 decision to Dominican on Wednesday. The Oaks (4-3, 6-12) will participate in next week's conference playoffs.

THE NET RESULTS . . . Former Stanford tennis standout **K.J. Hippensteel** won the USTA Challenger in Tiburon on Sunday with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Kevin Kim . . . Two-time NCAA champion while at Stanford, **Laura Granville** won the USTA Challenger in Ashburn, Virginia on Sunday, beating Lucie Safarova, 6-4, 6-2 . . . Menlo-Atherton grad **Hilary Englert**, playing for Cal, reached the consolation finals of the St. Mary's Invitational with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Nevada's Bach Lam Pham on Sunday.

OF LOCAL NOTE . . . Menlo School graduate **K.C. Conley** was named Athlete of the Week after helping Emory women's volleyball to a 4-0 record in the second round of the University Athletic Association round-robin tournament.

ON THE AIR

Friday

Prep football: Menlo-Atherton at Menlo, 3 p.m., KCEA (89.1 FM)

Women's volleyball: Stanford at Washington St., 7 p.m.; KZSU (90.1 FM)

Prep sports: High School Sports Focus, 11 p.m., KICU (36); rebroadcast Sunday at 7 p.m.

Saturday

College football: Oregon at Stanford, 2 p.m., KNEW (910 AM), KZSU (90.1 FM)

Women's volleyball: Stanford at Washington, 7 p.m., KZSU (90.1 FM)

Sunday

Prep sports: Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area, 4:30 p.m., KRON (4); rebroadcast Monday at 7 p.m. on Fox Sports Net



Stanford redshirt junior Michael Sgroi, here kicking against Oregon last year, is hoping for better results on Saturday when the Ducks come to town for the first time since 1997 for an important Pac-10 Conference homecoming game at 2 p.m. Sgroi is working on a streak of nine straight field goals made.

Sgroi is getting his kicks at Stanford

Cardinal placekicker hopes to continue this season's success with a big outing against Oregon on Saturday

by Rick Eymer

Michael Sgroi had a choice coming out of high school: He could have become a Division II strong safety, or taken his chances as a Division I placekicker.

Stanford (2-1, 4-2) has reaped the benefits of his final decision as the redshirt junior leads the Cardinal football team in points (45) heading into Saturday's 2 p.m. Pac-10 showdown with visiting Oregon (2-1, 3-3).

Saturday is Stanford's homecoming and every former Cardinal ath-

lete has been invited to attend to take part in Stanford's 10-year run as Director's Cup champions.

Oregon hasn't been in town since 1997.

Sgroi led Central Catholic High in Michigan in tackles as a senior, and also played quarterback. He earned his accolades as a kicker though, receiving first team all-state status and being named the No. 1 kicker in the Midwest by one publication.

"As a soccer player I learned how to kick," Sgroi said. "I just got bet-

ter and better at it and knew that was the way to go to a high level school."

Sgroi overcame back problems his first years at Stanford to develop into one of the team's most consistent weapons. After missing his first three attempts (the first two were from 42 and 49 yards) of the season, Sgroi has connected on nine straight, including a career-best 47-yarder late in the fourth quarter in last Saturday's 23-17 win over Washington State.

"That was absolutely critical,"

Stanford coach Buddy Teevens said. "He has been very consistent and is playing with a lot of confidence, maybe something he lacked at the end of last year. He's so hard on himself that he thinks about the last one. Now he's relaxed and thinking about the next one."

Sgroi, who also led the team in scoring (42 points) last year, finds himself moving rapidly up the career ladder for field goals. He's 25 of 40 in his two-plus seasons, already eighth best in the Stanford

(continued on page 32)



Darrin Nelson remains as Stanford's all-time leading rusher.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Stanford-Oregon means tough week for Nelson family

by Rick Eymer

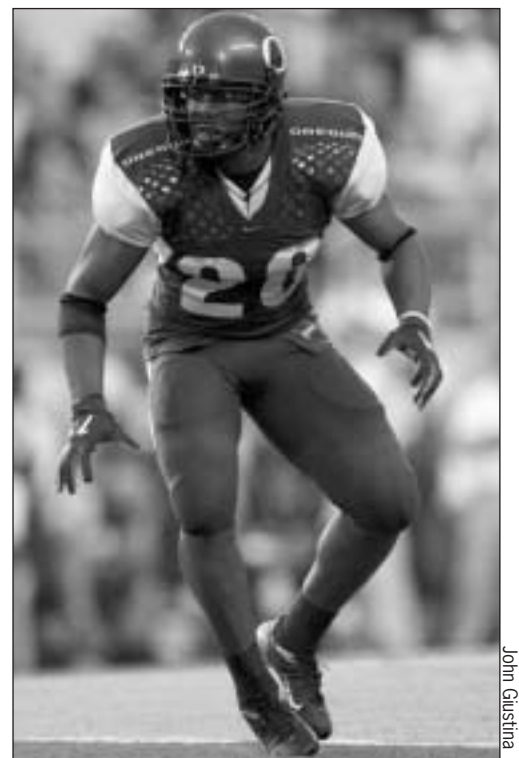
Darrin Nelson will assume his normal spot on the field in the end zone this Saturday to watch Stanford take on visiting Oregon at 2 p.m. It may not be an ordinary game for him though.

Nelson, who serves as a Senior Associate Athletic Director at Stanford, will be openly rooting for the Cardinal to continue their winning ways. He'll also be secretly hoping that one Oregon player in particular, his 20-year-old son J.D. Nelson, has a good game.

"For the Nelson family it's a difficult week," said Darrin Nelson. "Mom (H. Camilla) is a Duck fan but dad is still here at Stanford. It's tough for me because I want Stanford to reach their goals and one of them is to beat Oregon. I'll root for J.D. but I don't want Oregon to beat Stanford."

Darrin Nelson, of course, is one of Stanford's

(continued on page 32)



J.D. Nelson, Darrin's son, is among Oregon's leading tacklers.

Nelsons

(continued from page 31)

most revered football players. His first two seasons on The Farm coincided with Bill Walsh's first years as a head coach, in which he revolutionized the running back position as part of his innovative offense, which became known as the West Coast Offense in later years.

Nelson became the first player in college football history to rush for more than 1,000 yards and catch more than 50 passes in a season. He did it three times in his four years. He was the precursor to the way Walsh used Roger Craig with the San Francisco 49ers.

Nelson became Stanford's main weapon in leading the Cardinal to successful appearances in the 1977 Sun Bowl and the 1978 Bluebonnet Bowl. Walsh left to coach the 49ers, while Nelson stayed to become Stanford's all-time leading rusher with 4,033 yards, 1,093 yards more than Brad Muster, the number two man on the list.

Nelson was also Stanford's all-time leading receiver with 214 receptions when he left Stanford after the 1981 season to join the NFL, where he enjoyed an 11-year career. Troy Walters and DeRonnie Pitts have both since passed Nelson.

J.D. (Jordan Darrin) Nelson is paving his own way with the Ducks after a brilliant high school career at Mountain View High. The younger Nelson, a redshirt sophomore at Oregon, rushed for over 1,200 yards at Mountain View.

At Oregon, Nelson has become one of the team's top defensive players. He's third on the team with 32 tackles, and was named as one of the team captains for Saturday's

game.

"There's three key things that go through my head every day," he told the Oregonian. "Make tackles. Know what everybody is doing. And always play hard."

It's the kind of attitude that has endured him to the coaching staff.

"J.D. has done a great job," Oregon coach Mike Bellotti said. "He's a play maker in the secondary and is sort of a coach back there. He's an aggressive young man who enjoys playing football."

After redshirting the 2002 season, Nelson made an immediate impact playing on special teams last year. During spring ball, he earned the starting job at free safety.

"I want to be a reliable guy in pass coverage," he told the Portland Tribune. "If I lack anything, it's upper body strength, which I need to tackle the big backs we're going to face this year."

Football has always been a part of his life, as he watched his father's professional career unfold.

"He learned how to walk on a football field," Darrin Nelson said. "He had no choice. We always talked about playing football, and I always wanted him to do his own thing. It's his college experience, it's something he can create for himself."

The weekend should be busy for the Nelson family. It's the first chance for many of J.D.'s relatives to watch him play in several years.

"It's a special day for all the uncles and aunts and friends," Darrin said. "I've been up to Oregon to watch him play. He'll have a lot of friends at the game. It's been a bit of a distraction trying to set up tickets and things like that." ■

Teevens said he wouldn't hesitate to use Sgroi in situations beyond 50 yards.

"He has a powerful leg, and he's 50-plus," Teevens said. "If it's an ideal situation, I would give him a good look at that (up to 58 yards) distance."

Sgroi also has made 18 of 19 PAT attempts.

"If they call my name I'm ready," Sgroi said. "It's another opportunity to get on the field and time to do a job."

Sgroi also has been effective with his kickoffs, sending 14 of his 34 kicks into the end zone for touchbacks. Opponents have only recorded four touchbacks.

Sgroi spends most of practice time chatting with punter Jay Ottovogio, and they usually watch each other kick. They also get to watch a lot of practice from the sidelines.

"You usually don't kick more than 30 balls a day," Sgroi said. "So a lot of practice we aren't doing anything."

Sgroi also tries to avoid the rest of the team during games, preferring to avoid the emotional intensity.

"I try not to talk to anybody," he said. "I concentrate on my job."

With 62 career PATs, Sgroi is six shy of Miller and David Sweeney for ninth on the all-time list.

Sgroi is hoping Saturday's game against Oregon will give him plenty of opportunities to add to that. ■

Sgroi

(continued from page 31)

record books. Kevin Miller is next with 27, and Sgroi's good friend, Mike Biselli is sixth with 31. Biselli assumed the kicking chores from Miller while Sgroi assumed the duties from Biselli.

"Mike is one of my best friends," Sgroi said. "I feel like if I need help I can send him film to watch."

While Biselli never played soccer, the two kickers - Biselli was a senior during Sgroi's redshirt season - do have something besides kicking for Stanford in common.

His name is Dick Pierce, a renowned kicking coach in Ohio who has produced a number of NFL kickers.

"He's a good guy," Sgroi said. "I'd spend some of my summer with him and send him game film. He's worked with a lot of guys."

Sgroi refined his techniques with Pierce and has put them into practice with Stanford, where he suffered through a bulging disc, and a broken bone in his back his first two seasons.

"I spent a summer in a brace from my chest to my thigh," Sgroi said. "Then last year I hadn't kicked for nine months and mechanically I just wasn't there. That affected me physically and mentally. During the past offseason I went back to training hard and now I'm seeing the results."

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

| BOYS SOCCER | | | |
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| Private Schools Athletic League | | | |
| Woodside Priory | 1 | 0 | — 1 |
| Pinewood | 1 | 1 | — 2 |
| WP - Sohn (Park) P - Matthews (Whitlock), Slosberg (Arai) | | | |
| Other scores: Fremont Christian 5, Redwood Christian 1; Sacred Heart Prep at St. Lawrence rained out; King's Academy at Harker, rained out | | | |
| Standings: Sacred Heart Prep 11-0 (15-0), Valley Christian-Dublin 10-1, King's Academy 6-4-1, St. Lawrence 6-6, Woodside Priory 5-6 (7-6-2), Harker 4-6-1, Pinewood 3-9 (5-9), Redwood Christian 3-10, Fremont Christian 2-8 | | | |

| GIRLS TENNIS | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| At Menlo 7, Carlmont 0 | | | |
| Singles — Hoffman (M) d. Lam, default; Boret (M) d. Perkins, 6-0, 6-1; Ash. Carlisle (M) d. Mayer, default; Filipcik (M) d. Hamilton, 6-0, 6-0. | | | |
| Doubles — Ali. Carlisle-Montgomery (M) d. Mitchell-Timko, 6-2, 6-2; Berry-Moreno (M) d. Aden-Herskovitz, 6-3, 6-3; Leathers-Badger (M) d. Tung-Wada, 6-1, 6-0. | | | |
| At Burlingame 5, Menlo-Atherton 2 | | | |
| Singles — Freethy (B) d. Murveit, 6-4, 6-2; K. O'Donnell (MA) d. Mayer, 6-3, 6-3; Hughes (MA) d. Yamazaki, 7-5, 6-4; Chan (B) d. Keating, 6-1, 6-0. | | | |
| Doubles — Foley-Mead (B) d. O'Brien-Bliss, 6-3, 6-2; O'Rourke-Flake (B) d. Tangway-Causor, 6-1, 6-3; Stanell-Miller (B) d. Drescher-Kaufert, 6-1, 6-0. | | | |
| Standings: Menlo 12-0 (19-3), Burlingame 9-3, Aragon 8-4, Carlmont 5-7, Menlo-Atherton 4-8 (5-10), Sequoia 1-11, San Mateo 0-12 | | | |

| SCVAL De Anza Division | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Palo Alto 4, at Gunn 3 | | | |
| Singles — Hu (PA) d. Hastie, 6-0, 6-2; Wu (G) d. Raffi, 6-4, 6-3; Yoffe (PA) d. Lee, 6-3, 6-1; Chandler (PA) d. Hoffman, 6-1, 6-0. | | | |
| Doubles — Klausner-Stone (G) d. M. Przybyla-Robin, 6-1, 6-3; Yamamura-Clemenson (G) d. Lehmann-Small, 6-1, 7-5; Pearson-Heinrich (PA) d. Ngai-Karra, 6-4, 7-5. | | | |
| Records: Palo Alto 4-4 (11-5), Gunn 0-9 (0-13) | | | |

| West Bay Athletic League | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| At Cubberley Community Center | | | |
| Castilleja 7, Mercy-SF 0 | | | |
| Singles — Bhalla (Ca) d. Morton, 6-3, 7-5; McKenna (Ca) d. Bustwick, 6-1, 6-0; Lipsick (Ca) d. Wai, 6-3, 6-2; Lee (Ca) by default. | | | |
| Doubles — Michaels-Brown (Ca) d. Alarcon-Moyes, 6-1, 6-0; Bolten-Ryu (Ca) d. Chan-Caravaca, 6-4, 2-6, 10-6; Giancarlo-Dutta (Ca) d. Alcairo-Viana, 6-0, 6-3. | | | |
| Records: Castilleja 6-1 (8-4) | | | |

| Nonleague | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Monta Vista 6, Sacred Heart Prep 1 | | | |
| Records: Sacred Heart Prep 18-3 | | | |
| Los Altos 4, Pinewood 3 | | | |
| Records: Pinewood 13-5 | | | |

| GIRLS VOLLEYBALL | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| SCVAL El Camino Division | | | |
| At Palo Alto | | | |
| Palo Alto d. Cupertino, 25-13, 25-17, 25-16. Top players: Katrina Zawojski (PA) 6 kills; Lindsay Harris (PA) 6 kills; Erica Gate (PA) 5 blocks; Hillary Ford (PA) 9 digs. | | | |
| Standings: Palo Alto 8-0 (19-9), Lynbrook 7-1, Monta Vista 4-4, Cupertino 4-4, Santa Clara 3-5, Wilcox 2-6, Fremont 0-8 | | | |
| SCVAL De Anza Division | | | |
| At Gunn | | | |
| Gunn d. Mountain View, 25-21, 25-14, 25-16. Top players: Alex Graves (G) 8 kills. | | | |
| Records: Gunn 5-3 (13-7) | | | |

| Wednesday | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| At Gunn | | | |
| Los Gatos d. Gunn, 25-20, 25-17, 25-7. Top players: Alex Graves (G) 7 kills. | | | |
| Records: Los Gatos 8-0 (19-3); Gunn 5-4 (13-8) | | | |

| PAL Bay Division | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| At Pacifica | | | |
| Menlo d. Terra Nova, 25-11, 25-9, 25-10. Top players: Ali Lycette (M) 7 kills; Alex | | | |

| At Burlingame | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Menlo-Atherton d. Burlingame, 26-24, 25-18, 23-25, 25-14. Top players: Nikki Engelhardt (MA) 11 kills; Kelly Wright (MA) 5 kills; Ann Sbardellati (MA) 4 blocks. | | | |
| Standings: Menlo 9-0 (11-5), Carlmont 8-1, Aragon 6-3, Menlo-Atherton 6-3 (17-12), Half Moon Bay 3-6, Burlingame 2-7, San Mateo 2-7, Terra Nova 0-9 | | | |

| West Bay Athletic League | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| At San Francisco | | | |
| Mercy-San Francisco d. Woodside Priory, 25-12, 25-9, 25-20. | | | |
| Records: Woodside Priory 2-6 (9-9) | | | |
| West Catholic Athletic League | | | |
| At Sacred Heart Prep | | | |
| St. Francis d. Sacred Heart Prep, 25-11, 25-15, 25-17. Top players: Melissa Davison (SHP) 4 kills; Elizabeth Doyle (SHP) 4 kills. | | | |
| Records: Sacred Heart Prep 0-5 (14-15) | | | |

| Christian Private Schools League | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| At Liberty Baptist | | | |
| Liberty Baptist d. Mid-Peninsula, 25-6, 25-16, 25-13. | | | |
| Private Schools Athletic League | | | |
| At King's Academy | | | |
| Pinewood d. King's Academy, 25-13, 25-21, 25-23. Top players: Hannah Lippe (P) 18 kills. | | | |
| Records: Pinewood 4-1 in league | | | |

| BOYS WATER POLO | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| PAL Bay Division | | | |
| Monday | | | |
| Menlo-Atherton | 1 | 5 | 3 4 — 12 |
| Woodside | 3 | 1 | 1 2 — 7 |
| MA - Leoni 5, Rohn 3, Wiesner 2, Jacobs 2 | | | |
| W - S. Breen 3, Johnson 3, J. Breen | | | |
| Other scores: Menlo d. Sequoia by forfeit | | | |

| Wednesday | | | |
|---|---|---|----------|
| Menlo-Atherton | 2 | 2 | 4 0 — 8 |
| Burlingame | 4 | 3 | 1 1 — 9 |
| MA - Hazen 3, Leoni 2, Borcich 2, Hicks B - unavailable | | | |
| Menlo | 6 | 4 | 7 1 — 18 |
| Woodside | 1 | 1 | 0 2 — 4 |
| M - Bar-Gadda 5, Hohl 5, Suiter 3, Howard 2, Seipp, Hudnall, Read, W - J. Breen 2, S. Breen, Bristo | | | |
| Standings: Menlo 4-0 (20-3), Aragon 3-1, Burlingame 3-1, Menlo-Atherton 2-2 (11-8), Woodside 2-2, San Mateo 1-3, Sequoia 0-5 | | | |

| SCVAL De Anza Division | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Los Altos | 5 | 2 | 2 1 — 10 |
| Palo Alto | 0 | 2 | 1 4 — 7 |
| LA - Stanley 4, Orton 3, Wiener, McColl, Zwarenstein | | | |
| PA - Horstmeyer 3, Sorgenfrei 2, Cook, Vallone | | | |
| Records: Los Altos 5-0 (19-5), Palo Alto 0-5 (9-16) | | | |

| Nonleague | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| Tuesday | | | |
| St. Francis | 2 | 5 | 2 2 — 11 |
| Menlo-Atherton | 1 | 1 | 1 1 — 4 |
| SF - unavailable MA - Hicks 2, Leoni, Hazen | | | |

| GIRLS WATER POLO | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| PAL Bay Division | | | |
| Monday | | | |
| Woodside | 1 | 0 | 0 0 — 1 |
| Menlo-Atherton | 5 | 2 | 3 4 — 14 |
| W - Seelos | | | |
| MA - Fero 3, Bullwinkel 3, Eaton 2, McDonnell, Kucera, Scott, Dorst, Jones, Welton | | | |
| Burlingame | 1 | 2 | 0 1 — 4 |
| Castilleja | 2 | 2 | 1 2 — 6 |
| B - Plume 2, Coyne, Parra | | | |
| C - Amos 2, Carr, DePuy, Wiseman, Vartain | | | |
| Sequoia | 0 | 0 | 2 1 — 3 |
| Menlo | 4 | 5 | 1 3 — 13 |
| S - Kalafyan, Mariucci, Ziengenbalg | | | |
| M - Sullivan 4, Haley 3, Burmeister 3, Keeley, Schwanke, Closs | | | |
| Tuesday | | | |
| Menlo-Atherton | 6 | 2 | 6 2 — 16 |
| Castilleja | 2 | 2 | 1 1 — 6 |
| MA - Eaton 4, Fero 3, Kucera 3, Bullwinkel 2, McDonnell, Dorst, Zeiser, Jones | | | |
| C - Carr 2, Vartain 2, Patel, Wiseman | | | |
| Wednesday | | | |
| Menlo | 5 | 3 | 1 3 — 12 |
| Woodside | 0 | 0 | 1 2 — 3 |
| M - W. Allen 3, Haley 2, Sullivan 2, | | | |

| Burmeister, Closs | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---------------|
| W — unavailable | | | |
| M-A | 5 | 0 | 1 1 1 0 1 — 9 |

| Burlingame 2 1 2 2 1 0 0 — 8 | | | |
|---|---|---|---------|
| MA - Eaton 5, Fero, Bullwinkel, Steck, Kucera | | | |
| B - Plume 4, Blamey, Pratt, Vaughn, de la Parra | | | |
| Aragon | 2 | 2 | 2 2 — 8 |
| Castilleja | 1 | 0 | 2 1 — 4 |
| A - Zimmerman 4, Beaudreau 2, Cannon, Chiba | | | |
| C - Nagaraj 2, Carr, Amos | | | |
| Standings: Menlo 5-0 (18-7), Menlo-Atherton 5-0 (13-4), Aragon 4-1, Castilleja 2-3 (10-17), Sequoia 1-4, Burlingame 1-4, Woodside 1-4, San Mateo 1-4 | | | |

| SCVAL De Anza Division | | | |
|---|---|---|----------|
| Palo Alto | 6 | 4 | 2 1 — 13 |
| Los Altos | 2 | 1 | 1 2 — 6 |
| PA - R. Champion 3, P. Champion 3, Wilcox 2, Webster 2, Kremer 2, Friedman, Pinto | | | |
| LA - M. Powers 2, Murray, Lonhart, K. Powers, Cooper | | | |
| Records: Palo Alto 4-0 (20-5), Los Altos 3-1 league | | | |
| Gunn | 0 | 3 | 2 5 — 10 |
| Mtn. View | 1 | 3 | 0 2 — 6 |
| G - Eaton 4, Garrison 2, Walstra 2, Baugh, Hoffman | | | |
| MV - unavailable | | | |
| Records: Gunn 2-2 (12-8) | | | |

SCHEDULE

| FRIDAY | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Football | | | |
| PAL Bay Division — Menlo-Atherton at Menlo, 3 p.m. | | | |
| De Anza Division — Los Gatos at Palo Alto, 7:30 p.m.; Saratoga at Gunn, 3:15 p.m. | | | |

| Boys soccer | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| PSAL — Sacred Heart Prep at Pinewood, 3:30 p.m.; Harker at Woodside Priory, 3:30 p.m. | | | |

| Girls tennis | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| WBAL — Castilleja at Harker, 3:30 p.m. | | | |
| Nonleague — RLS at Pinewood, 3:30 p.m. | | | |

| Girls volleyball | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| WBAL — Notre Dame-San Jose at Woodside Priory, 6 p.m.; Castilleja at Harker, 6 p.m. | | | |
| PSAL — St. Lawrence at Pinewood, 5 p.m. | | | |

| Boys water polo | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Nonleague — Sacred Heart Prep Invitational: Serra at Sacred Heart Prep, noon; Leland at Menlo-Atherton, noon; Woodside vs. Palo Alto at Menlo-Atherton, 1 p.m.; Sacred Heart Prep-Serra loser vs. Cupertino-Santa Cruz loser at Sacred Heart Prep, 4 p.m.; Leland/Menlo-Atherton loser vs. Woodside-Paly loser at M-A, 4 p.m.; Sacred Heart Prep-Serra winner vs. Cupertino-Santa Cruz winner at SHP, 5 p.m.; Menlo-Atherton/Leland winner vs. Paly-Woodside winner at M-A, 5 p.m. | | | |

| Girls water polo | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Nonleague — Independence Invitational: Menlo-Atherton, Gunn entered | | | |

| SATURDAY | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Cross country | | | |
| Nonleague — Mt. SAC Invitational, Walnut | | | |
| Football | | | |
| PSAL — St. Lawrence at Sacred Heart Prep, 2 p.m. | | | |

| Girls volleyball | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Nonleague — Spikefest II at Milpitas: Pinewood, Castilleja, Sacred Heart Prep, Gunn entered; Presentation Tournament: Menlo entered | | | |

| Boys water polo | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Nonleague — Sacred Heart Prep Invitational: consolation games at SHP and Menlo-Atherton, 8 a.m.; fifth place, 1:30 p.m.; third place, 2:30 p.m.; championship, 3:30 p.m. (all at Sacred Heart Prep) | | | |

| Girls water polo | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Nonleague — Independence Invitational: Menlo-Atherton, Gunn entered | | | |

| MONDAY | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Girls golf | | | |
| PAL - Menlo vs. Mills at Menlo CC, 3 p.m. | | | |

| Girls tennis | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| WBAL — Harker at Woodside Priory, 3:30 p.m. | | | |



Palo Alto's (L-R) Becca Hagemann, Murray Koch, Lindsey Harris, Katrina Zawojski (11), Dami Wusu and Shaina Epstein (9) have had plenty to celebrate this season while closing in on the school's first volleyball title.

Palo Alto girls are finally in position to wrap up their first-ever volleyball title

by Keith Peters

Dave Huan noticed something seriously missing when he walked into the Palo Alto High gym for the first time.

On the north wall that held plaques of every sport with the years of titles won underneath, volleyball was conspicuously absent. On one side of the volleyball plaque was gymnastics (last title 1992) and on the other was football (last title 1995).

Under volleyball? Nothing. It's the only sport in Paly history never to have won a league championship.

"When I look in the gym, the volleyball plaque is empty," Huan said earlier this season. "I see the plaques for the other sports like football and basketball, and they all have stuff on (actually under) them."

The rest of the plaques should have some company soon. The SCVAL El Camino Division-leading Vikings (8-0, 19-9) took a one-game lead over Lynbrook into last night's showdown in Paly's gym and were expected to duplicate their earlier sweep of Lynbrook on Sept. 28.

With that accomplished, Paly should take a two-game lead into next week's matches at Fremont (Tuesday) and Wilcox (Thursday at home). A win over Fremont should clinch no worse than a tie for the division title, with a triumph over Wilcox giving the Vikings their long-awaited championship.

All that, however, is contingent upon Paly beating Lynbrook.

Paly has come close over the years to giving the volleyball plaque a championship year. The Vikings finished second in 1995 and again

in 1996 in the El Camino Division. After that, Paly earned the right to play in the tough SCVAL De Anza Division against the likes of St. Francis, Los Gatos and Los Altos.

The greatest season in Palo Alto volleyball history came in 2000, when the Vikings went 34-9 and reached the Central Coast Section and Northern California championship matches. The Vikings finished only 7-5 in league that season and the unfortunate task of playing St. Francis four times - the final two in those title-deciding matches. The Lancers won all four and eventually landed in the state championships, while Paly didn't even get a league crown that year.

Since then, the program has been on a slow downward spiral. Paly went 5-7 (22-15 overall) in 2001, 6-6 (15-12) in 2002 and finally hit rock bottom with a 2-10 league mark (9-19 overall) last season that earned the Vikings a demotion to the weaker El Camino Division.

Exit then-head coach Ami Williams and enter new head coach Dave Huan.

Huan is perhaps fortunate to be in the El Camino Division this season while teaching his players a new system, one the players have responded to.

"Coach Huan has really been positive as our coach," said Paly senior Katrina Zawojski. "He has had great expectations for us."

One expectation is that Palo Alto returns to the De Anza Division next season. That's a given once the Vikings wrap up the El Camino crown. St. Francis, of course, is long gone to the West Catholic Athletic League, which leaves Los Gatos and Los Altos as the perennial powers to deal with. Paly also will be

able to renew its rivalry with Gunn next season.

Huan, however, will lose five seniors off his team - Zawojski, Lindsey Harris, Shaina Epstein, Murray Koch and Dami Wusu. The Paly JV team, which was 8-0 and 19-8 before last night, will send its top players to Huan next season.

"The future of Paly volleyball is bright," said Huan, who expects to hang around just to see how bright it can get.

While Paly was focusing on winning a title, Gunn (5-4, 13-8) remains focused on trying to earn one of the three automatic CCS berths in the De Anza Division. The Titans looked solid in Tuesday's 25-21, 25-14, 25-16 victory against Mountain View, but then ran into first-place Los Gatos on Wednesday and fell, 25-20, 25-17, 25-7. Alex Graves led the Titans in both matches with eight and seven kills, respectively.

In the PAL Bay Division, Menlo (9-0, 11-5) won its ninth straight and maintained a one-game lead over Carlmont following a 25-11, 25-9, 25-10 win at Terra Nova this week. Ali Lycette (seven kills) and Alex Fisher (10 digs) led the Knights to their easy win.

Menlo-Atherton (6-3, 17-12) remained tied for third place with Aragon after a 26-24, 25-18, 23-25, 25-14 win over visiting Burlingame. Nikki Engelhardt (11 kills) and Kelly Wright (five kills) led the Bears, who hosted Carlmont yesterday in a big match with playoff ramifications.

In the Private Schools Athletic League, Hannah Lippe had 18 kills to help Pinewood improve to 4-1 in league with a 25-13, 25-21, 25-23 win over host King's Academy. ■

PREP WATER POLO

M-A girls visit Menlo for a title

Undefeated teams meet on Monday with PAL crown at stake

by Keith Peters

With two matches left in the PAL Bay Division regular season, the stage is set for a showdown between the Menlo and Menlo-Atherton girls on Monday.

The perennial division champion Knights (5-0, 18-7) will host the Bears (5-0, 14-4) at 4 p.m. The winner likely secures the regular-season title heading into the league tournament beginning Nov. 4.

The teams have met once this season, with Menlo pulling out an 11-10 overtime victory in the second round of the Peninsula Challenge at Castilleja. Menlo coach Kyle Utsumi, however, was with the U.S. Junior National Team and missed the match.

"I still haven't seen them," Utsumi said of the Bears. "I doubt this will be the last time we play each other this year. Both teams should be in the CCS tournament."

Menlo had an easy tuneup week for next week's match, toppling Sequoia by 13-3 and downing Woodside, 12-3. Megan Burmeister had seven goals in the two victories while fellow sophomore Camy Sullivan added six.

Menlo-Atherton breezed to a 14-1 win over Woodside on Monday and then handled host Castilleja on Tuesday, 16-6, but received a tough test Wednesday from Burlingame before surfacing with a 9-8 triple-overtime victory.

Junior Kelly Eaton scored five goals in the nail-biter, including the game-winner off an assist from Heidi Kucera just one minute into sudden-death overtime. Last year, M-A and Burlingame played a marathon match that lasted eight overtimes.

Eaton scored 11 goals in the three wins this week while Kelly Fero



Megan Burmeister led Menlo to a pair of wins this week.



M-A's Kelly Eaton had five goals in a 9-8 OT win over Burlingame.

added seven goals, Rita Bullwinkel six and Kucera five.

Castilleja (2-3, 10-17) had one victory in three matches this week, holding on for a 6-4 triumph over Burlingame before falling to Menlo-Atherton and then Aragon (8-4). Senior goalie Nikki Perlman had 15 saves in the victory.

In the SCVAL De Anza Division, Palo Alto (4-0, 20-5) clinched no worse than a tie for the division title with a 13-6 victory at Los Altos on Wednesday night. Senior Remy Champion and junior Phoebe Champion combined for six goals while Donna Kremer, Brittany Webster and Tanya Wilcox all scored twice for the Vikings, who can wrap up the regular-season championship next Wednesday with a win at Cupertino.

Gunn (2-2, 12-8) posted a solid 10-6 win at Mountain View as Di Eaton scored four goals and drew seven ejections, including a 4-meter penalty shot. Sophomore Tasha Walstra and Sera Garrison added two goals apiece.

Boys

Menlo (4-0, 20-3) is two victories away from clinching the PAL Bay Division regular-season title and earning the top seed for the league tournament beginning Nov. 4.

The Knights play host to Menlo-Atherton (2-2, 11-8) on Monday at 2 p.m., then host Aragon (3-1) next Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Menlo picked up a forfeit win over Sequoia on Monday before romping past host Woodside on Wednesday, 18-4. Dave Bar-Gadda and Ben Hohl each scored five goals while Andy Suiter (3) and Pete Howard (2) also were among the many contributors.

Joe Leoni scored five goals for M-A in a 12-7 win at Woodside on Monday, but the Bears then fell to St. Francis (11-4) in a nonleague test and then Burlingame in PAL action Wednesday, 9-8.

Menlo-Atherton will join Palo Alto and host Sacred Heart Prep in the annual Sacred Heart Prep Invitational today and Saturday at M-A and SHP. The host Gators open today at noon against Serra while the Bears take on Leland at the same time at M-A. Palo Alto follows the M-A game, taking on Woodside. The championship match will be Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at SHP. ■

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Melissa Mordell

Sacred Heart Prep

The junior scored 10 goals, had seven assists, four steals and played solid defense as the Gators had two WCAL wins to keep them in first place and three wins during a second-place finish in the SHP Invitational.



Garrick Yuen

Sacred Heart Prep

The junior keeper had two shutout victories, blocking a penalty shot in one match and coming out of goal with an injured hand to score a goal in another PSAL soccer victory as the Gators improved to 15-0 on the season.

Honorable mention

Katie Bouret

Menlo tennis

Christie Clark

Sacred Heart Prep water polo

Camy Sullivan

Menlo water polo

Tori Tyler*

Gunn cross country

Tanya Wilcox

Palo Alto water polo

Katrina Zawojski*

Palo Alto volleyball

Michael Borcich

Menlo-Atherton water polo

Nathan Ford

Palo Alto football

Alex Haimson

Menlo football

Tucker Laurence

Gunn football

Arjan Ligtenberg

Gunn water polo

Hudson Smythe*

Sacred Heart Prep football

* previous winner

SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Soccer

College men — Stanford at UCLA, 6 p.m.

College women - Stanford at UCLA, 4 p.m.

Tennis

College women — ITA Regionals at Stanford, all day

College men — Omni Hotels Regionals in Berkeley, all day

Volleyball

College women — Stanford at Washington State, 7 p.m.; Holy Names at Menlo, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Cross country

Nonleague — Stanford at Shoreline Invitational.

Field hockey

College - Pacific at Stanford, 1 p.m.

Football

College — Whitworth at Menlo, noon; Oregon at Stanford, 2 p.m.

Tennis

College women — ITA Regionals at Stanford, all day

College men — Omni Hotels Regionals in Berkeley, all day

Volleyball

College women — Stanford at Washington, 7 p.m.

Water polo

College men — Stanford at Pepperdine, noon

SUNDAY

Soccer

College women — Stanford at USC, 1 p.m.

Tennis

College women — ITA Regionals at Stanford, all day

College men — Omni Hotels Regionals in Berkeley, all day

Water polo

College men — Stanford at UC San Diego, noon

MONDAY

Tennis

College women — ITA Regionals at Stanford, all day

College men — Omni Hotels Regionals in Berkeley, all day

TUESDAY

Tennis

College men — Omni Hotels Regionals in Berkeley, all day

FRIDAY, OCT. 29

Cross country

College men — Washington at Stanford, 7:30 p.m.

College women - Oregon at Stanford, 5.

SATURDAY, OCT. 30

Cross country

Pac-10 — Stanford at Pac-10's, San Francisco.

Field hockey

College - Stanford at Cal, 4 p.m.

Football

College — Stanford at UCLA, 12:30 p.m. (Fox Sports Net); Menlo at Linfield, 1 p.m.

Volleyball

College women — Menlo at Bethany, 7 p.m.

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