This document contains the press clippings for the 4th Quarter of 2013 (Oct. – Dec.), gathered by the Department of Public Information, Communications & Media, so that you can stay informed about the contributions the Peralta Colleges make to the community and the interest this generates in the press.

Enjoy reading about the newsworthy events that took place at the colleges and within the District during the past three months, and please share this report with colleagues in order for everyone to benefit from this information.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or comments.
Peralta Community College District
Department of Public Information, Communications and Media

4th Quarter, 2013
(October - December)
Press Clips
State’s community colleges may add bachelor’s programs

By Jeff Landa | Staff
jlanda@dailycaal.org

The head of California’s vast community college system formed a group to consider the viability of adding four-year bachelor's degree options to its campuses.

Bruce Harris, chancellor of the California Community Colleges system, assembled the Baccalaureate Degree Study Group in August to examine demand for and cost of the degree programs while considering the effects of deviating from the community college system’s traditional role. California would join a growing number of states whose community colleges offer bachelor’s degrees.

In addition to members from the community college system, the 16-person committee includes representatives from the UC and CSU systems. It will make recommendations to Harris in December, and if the system’s governing board accepts the recommendations, the proposal would require approval from the state Legislature, the governor and an accrediting commission authorized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Michael Morvice, president of the California Community College Student Affairs Association, stated that the degree program would benefit students by providing them with additional options.

“Why not consider and review it?” Morvice said.

With more than 2.3 million students across 112 campuses, California’s community college system is the largest higher education system in the United States.

California’s community colleges are considering adding bachelor’s degree options, an idea some say is a deviation from the system’s traditional role.

DEGREES: Critics claim proposal challenges roles of state schools

DEGREES: PAGE 3

From Front

Norton Grubb, a professor emeritus at the Graduate School of Education, suggested that the community college system’s traditional function — transferring students to four-year institutions as outlined in the Master Plan for Higher Education — might be overshadowed by a baccalaureate degree option.

“Community colleges have a lot to do already without having to work with baccalaureate programs,” he said.

The plan, implemented in 1960, differentiated the functions of California’s three pillars of public postsecondary education: the UC, CSU and community college campuses. The system allows the institutions to fulfill different roles as a coherent and non-competing system.

“(The) UC has historically viewed the state’s Master Plan as an efficient way of managing and allocating limited resources,” said UC spokesperson Shelly Meron. She said the university is waiting on recommendations but reiterated its commitment to the plan.

Rachel Fishman, an education policy analyst at the New America Foundation, a non-partisan public policy think tank, is critical of the program, saying it drifts from the mission of the Master Plan by duplicating efforts in the tiered system and shifting costs to students.

“California’s community college system should look at innovative ways to open up the courses that are overenrolled,” Fishman said.

The group is scheduled to meet again Oct. 15.
CITY COLLEGE OF S.F.
Accreditation panel president is lightning rod

By Nanette Asimov

Barbara Beno is no household name, yet she and the college accrediting commission she runs in Novato are the subject of two lawsuits, a state audit, a federal reprimand, and verbal vitriol from Southern California to Sacramento.

To critics, Beno plays the Queen of Hearts, a rapacious royal straight out of Wonderland who likes nothing more than to declare, "Off with his head!" as she wallops schools like City College of San Francisco with the threat of revoking their operating license.

The view is extreme but widespread, thanks to a statewide faculty union bent on dismantling the accrediting commission it claims uses unfair, if not illegal, tactics to intimidate colleges across the state.

Beno continues on C3
Accreditation panel chief draws scrutiny

Beno From page C1

"I have never dealt with a more arrogant, condescending and dismissive individual," said state Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Tehama County, to fellow lawmakers in August as he and his Democratic colleague, Sen. Jim Beall of San Jose, persuaded a state committee to approve a seven-month audit of the accrediting system overseen by Beno. Their audit request relied heavily on information from the California Federation of Teachers, the union representing college faculty.

Beno wasn't present to respond, and she declined to be interviewed for this article.

She is president of the private, nonprofit Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, which is being sued by the city of San Francisco and the California Federation of Teachers. Both are trying to force the commission to back off of City College, whose accreditation is set to be revoked next summer. Without it, the college of 80,000 students would close. The U.S. Department of Education also reprimanded the commission in August, saying it lacks a policy on conflicts of interest and that Beno should not have appointed her husband, Peter Crabtree, to serve on the commission that evaluated City College in 2013.

"We are confident that the issues raised by the U.S. Department of Education can and will be resolved in a timely manner," Beno said in a e-mail to The Chronicle, in which she called the lawsuits frivolous and said they would be addressed in court.

Beno, who has a doctorate in sociology, was president of Berkeley City College (then known as Vista Community College) for 12 years, but she lost the job in 2000 when a new chancellor arrived in the East Bay's Contra Costa Community College District. She took a human resources job in the San Mateo Community College District, but their new chancellor also let her go. She became president of the accrediting commission in 2001, and records show she earned $316,571 in 2011.

As chief enforcer of the myriad accrediting regulations required by the U.S. Department of Education, Beno is a stickler for rules - and a ripe target.

The California Federation of Teachers especially enjoys berating Beno and her commission, known as the ACCJC, with some of the most pernicious thrusts coming from Marty Hittelman, its former president. He regularly updates a popular report he calls "ACCJC Gone Wild," in which he accuses Beno of conducting "a reign of terror" and labels her commission "a rogue agency."

Private and financed by dues-paying colleges, the commission relishes keeping the public at bay - even bringing in security to bar dozens from the public portion of its semiannual meeting in June.

Beno and the commission have been dragged into the spotlight as the legal and governmental challenges raise questions about their conduct, largely around secrecy. In June, the commission approved a policy for shredding documents it no longer wants, and in August it said City College may not disclose its efforts to appeal the revocation of its accreditation as it intended. The revocation is set for next summer.

"What do they have to hide?" Nielsen asked lawmakers at the audit hearing.

He and Beall cited research by the faculty union indicating the accrediting commission is stricter with its colleges - those in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands - than all other accrediting agencies nationwide.

The state audit will look at whether California's accrediting process follows the law, addresses academic quality and is in line with the practices of accrediting agencies, Elaine Howle, the state auditor, told the lawmakers.

It's a review Beno never wanted. In May, she marshaled lawyers and lobbyists to halt the senators' effort, according to correspondence obtained by The Chronicle.

And she succeeded - at first. On May 31, a lawyer for the commission assured Beno that the state had "no legal authority to audit a private organization and . . . if you think about it, it would be shocking if it did."

Days later, the audit was knocked off the lawmakers' June agenda.

But the audit went through in August - allowable because it will look only at how the accrediting process affects colleges, not at the agency itself.

Another e-mail sheds light on Beno, not as someone who takes delight in cracking down on colleges, but as an advocate of tough love who thinks high standards might actually help the schools improve.

On June 3, she sent a note to Erik Skinner, the state's deputy chancellor, with whom she had been tracking Nielsen and Beall's efforts to get the audit done. She wrote: "The idea that the standards should be lower than they are, or that the Commission should not enforce its standards because so many institutions have been performing poorly, is pretty sad."

Nanette Asimov is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: nanasimov@sffchronicle.com Twitter: @NanetteAsimov
Peralta Colleges have full slate of outstanding October events

With the days growing shorter, October isn’t just spooky, it seems especially full of great events. Before the goblins and pumpkins take over our streets, let’s get right to the autumn happenings at our local community colleges.

— Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, and Laney and Merritt colleges in Oakland.

Bob°C

City College hosts a talk, “Woman Among Warlords,” by Malalai Joya at 7 p.m. on Oct. 17. Joya first gained international attention when she spoke out publicly against Afghan warlords. She taught secretly in underground schools for girls in Afghanistan. And, in 2005, she became one of 68 women elected to the country’s 249-seat National Assembly. Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in 2010. Her talk is free and open to all.

Those fascinated by headline trials had a pre-Halloween treat on Oct. 9, when an extraordinary debate among legal experts took place at Laney College. The debate, which focused on the O.J. Simpson murder trial, the Angela Davis conspiracy trial, and the death penalty trial of Black Panther co-founder Huey Newton, determined just what constitutes “the trial of the century.”

Distinguished panelists included James Brosnahan, who is ranked among the top 50 U.S. trial lawyers, and Oakland attorney John Burris.

If you missed it live, you can watch the debate — sponsored by the Peralta Community College District, Alameda County Democratic Lawyers Club, Women Lawyers of Alameda County and the Equal Justice Society — on Peralta TV, cable channel 27 or 28, at 8 p.m. Oct. 20.

Speaking of the Panthers: Don’t miss the broadcast this month of Peralta TV’s award-winning documentary “Merritt College: Home of the Black Panthers.” Narrated by U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, the film details the origins of the Panthers at Merritt College. Peralta TV’s documentary not only won a national award for the best college video in 2008, but was also shown at a special screening at the United Nations in New York.

Watch Peralta TV at 8 p.m. on Oct. 14 or at 9 p.m. on Oct. 20 to see this locally produced award-winner.

Do you know a high school student who is an Oakland resident, behind in school or thinking of dropping out? The Gateway to College program at Laney College might be just what they need to succeed. Gateway to College is a scholar-ship program that provides disadvantaged Oakland kids an opportunity to experience success in an academic environment.

This dual (high school and college) credit program promotes student success and readiness by grouping students into learning communities. Students focus their studies in a “pathway,” or major, aligned with high school completion and college goals. The program is recruiting for Spring 2014. To attend the Oct. 24 information session, call 510-986-6941. You can also visit the program’s website at www.laney.edu/wp/gateway.

We say a fond goodbye to former College of Alameda professor Jane Koll, who passed away on Sept. 11. Dr. Koll, who was 85, was professor of psychology and human development for many years at College of Alameda and served as president of the Academic Senate in 1994. She graduated from Berkeley High School in 1964 and received her bachelor’s in arts in 1960 from UC Berkeley; a master’s degree from Cal State Hayward in 1975; and her Ed.D. from Nova University in 1988. Let’s reflect on her outstanding contributions to College of Alameda and all the students she influenced over the years.

Next month, I’ll have more news about the Peralta Colleges as we continue to put the word “community” into our community colleges.

Reach Jeffrey Heyman at jheyman@peralta.edu or follow him on Twitter @jheyman.
Peralta campuses have lots of outstanding events in October.
College Volleyball
• Alameda 3, Napa Valley 1; 3-2

The Cougars handed the visiting Storm a rare Bay Valley Conference loss Wednesday night, 25-15, 16-25, 25-15, 25-22. Marcelina Zavala had nine kills and Carina Quintero amassed 27 digs to lead Napa Valley (4-8 overall, 4-2 BVC), which hurt itself with a season-high 16 service errors.

"When you have that many service errors and one hitter putting the ball down, you're going to have problems," Storm coach Kelly Van Winden said.

While fourth-place Napa Valley visits third-place Yuba (7-6, 4-1) at 6 p.m. today, Alameda (11-4, 5-0) hosts Solano (11-2, 5-0) in a first-place showdown.

Fairfield, CA
(Solano Co)
Daily Republic
(cir D 17,710)
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CCT 1 2 2013

Falcons drop 1st BVC match of season

ALAMEDA — The Solano Community College dropped its first Bay Valley Conference match, a 15-25, 19-25, 25-23, 25-14, 15-6 defeat to College of Alameda, Friday.

The Falcons (11-3, 5-1 BVC) were paced by Keanna Layug's 19 flora 19 serving with two aces and she also chipped in 15 digs. Gabby Silva added 12 kills and nine blocks, while Janelle Williams had nine kills and three blocks.

Hope Grace finished the night with nine kills and 14 digs, Selina Castro had 28 assists and Brittany Smith added five kills and six blocks.
Neighbors

Halloween holiday my all-time fall favorite

The lazy days of October are upon us. The sun gets up late and sets early. The leaves turn and swirl to the ground. Pumpkins take on human characteristics and stand guard (or is it guard?) in yards across the land. Of all the fall holidays, Halloween is my favorite. No major meals to make, no relatives to entertain and no gifts. It’s just chill and costumes and silliness. This year, I’m going as the government siss-down — just a thin sheet of tin foil devoid of transparency.

Meanwhile...

BOTTOMS UP: Why whine about the government when you can wine about it instead? Reader Gigi Benson says Fat Paulson Vineyards has been having fun with four wines they’ve created to spoof the federal government’s budget snafus. Fiscal Cliff Cabernet is my favorite — aged in expensive oak barrels paid with money “borrowed from our grandchildren’s pension funds.” Release date — next century.

IN MEMORIAM: Oakland lost a civic leader on Sept. 30 with the unexpected death of attorney Ed Thomas. He had just returned with wife Laura from an anniversary cruise to Alaska when he suffered a heart attack. Thomas will be remembered for his service on boards for the Paramount Theatre and Chabot Space and Science Center, as well as his volunteer time with the East Bay Conservation Corps, local food banks and several youth organizations.

EMAIL BAG: Reader Korki Brett says I omitted some critical information in my item on Montclair Elementary School zone congestion — the school day hours. Here they are: school begins at 8:30 a.m. each day and ends at 2:50 p.m., with the exception of Wednesdays — when the kids get out early at 1:30 p.m. Mountain Boulevard really backs up during drop-off and pick-up, so plan your trips accordingly.

AROUND TOWN: Merritt College breaks ground, today, on a new science and Allied Health building. The 107,000-square-foot building is funded by Measure A money and will be home to the school’s science, genomics, nursing and nutrition departments. It should be done by May 2015.

A long-shuttered gas station in Woodminster is seeing new life. It’s been reincarnated as a bookstore run by the nearby Mormon church. The building’s configuration seems a bit odd for a bookstore, but at least there’s plenty of parking. The downside is that the lot is no longer available for patrons of Moravian’s — the popular pub next door.

Meanwhile, the future of print technology has come to Montclair. Honey Bee 3-D has opened at 9157 La Salle — with a retail store and classes in 3-D printing.

ANIMAL TALES: How times have changed. No one would dare hunt gophers in Oakland today, but in 1965, kids got good money for rounding up the pests. Reader Mark Stauffer remembers roaming the Hills Swim Club with his makeshift weapon — a stick with a nail on the end. He and a cadre of kids would get paid a buck a pelt — back when a candy bar cost a nickel.

Got news? You can reach Ginny Prior by phone at 510-769-8828, by email at glenyprior@hotmail.com or on the web at www.glenyprior.com.

Ginny Prior
THE TOWN CHIEF
Festival to benefit Gardens

By Jamie Smith
Carrington Telegram

Festival to benefit Gardens

CARRINGTON — Local artists and volunteers can show their pride by opening the gates of the neighborhood for the summer season. The festival, which is the community’s chance to appreciate and support art, will take place on June 15 from 10 am to 5 pm and feature live music, art displays, and food vendors.

This year, the festival has expanded its offerings to include a variety of performances and workshops. Visitors can enjoy a range of activities, from painting classes to live music performances. Local artists will have the opportunity to showcase their work, and attendees will have the chance to purchase unique and handcrafted items.

Volunteers are needed to make the festival a success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Carrington Chamber of Commerce at 975-1234. Volunteers are also encouraged to participate in the festival by selling their own art or crafts.

The festival is open to everyone, regardless of age or background. Attendees are invited to come and enjoy the event, which is free to the public. For more information, please visit the Carrington Chamber of Commerce website or contact the chamber at 975-1234.

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市大公佈萬一關校善後計劃書

21學院肯接收三藩市市大生

灣 灣 21個社區學院已經擺出姿態，如果三藩市市立大學在明年失去認證資格，這些學校將接受該校的數萬名學生，而其中兩間學校還表示將讓學生帶著學分轉學。而三藩市市立大學學校管理層還在一份計劃書中透露，如果該校不幸關閉，又如何處置其價值9億美元的房產和個人財產的細節。

市大管理層公佈了一份報告表明已經聯繫了灣區的21間公立社區學院，其中有10間校方表示有意在今年9月15日到學校接收該校可能失去的學生。

另外，位於舊金山灣區的兩間社區學院也表示有意接受市立大學在灣區的學生。

學生會獲權選校

在去年3月提交的灣區社區學院聯盟的提案中，提案者國立大學在灣區的學生也可以獲選委會的批准加入。

學生會獲權選校

在去年3月提交的提案中，提案者國立大學在灣區的學生也可以獲選委會的批准加入。

同 意 接 收 三 藩 市 市 大 生 的 21 所 公 校

Berkeley City College  
Canada College  
Chabot College  
College of Alameda  
College of Marin  
College of San Mateo  
Contra Costa College  
De Anza College  
Diablo Valley College  
Evergreen Valley College  
Foothill College  
Los Medanos College  
Laney College  
Las Posilas College  
Merritt College  
Mission College  
Odhon College  
San Jose City College  
Santa Rosa Junior College  
Skyline College  
West Valley College  

承諾承諾所有僱員合同

市大目前有10000名學生，僱員數量達2000人之多，這份承諾承諾所有的僱員和僱員的合同將得到承諾，並且該承諾所有的僱員的合約至少到2023年9月15日。同时，市大還承諾當地的學生和僱員將在學校關閉後，有權利進行議論和提出自己的意見。


city-college
College options

The 21 schools that would enroll CCSF students if it closes:

- Berkeley City College
- Cañada College (Redwood City)
- Chabot College (Hayward)
- College of Alameda
- College of Marin (Kentfield)
- College of San Mateo
- Contra Costa College (San Pablo)
- De Anza College (Cupertino)
- Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill)
- Evergreen Valley College (San Jose)
- Foothill College (Los Altos Hills)
- Laney College (Oakland)
- Las Positas College (Livermore)
- Los Medanos College (Pittsburg)
- Merritt College (Oakland)
- Mission College (Santa Clara)
- Ohlone College (Fremont)
- San Jose City College
- Santa Rosa Junior College
- Skyline College (San Bruno)
- West Valley College (Saratoga)
Contingency plan for CCSF closure

Accreditation from page A1

transportation and received commitments to enroll students. San Francisco State University also agreed to keep student transcripts, and Cal State East Bay said it would house personnel records — more than 11,000 of them — for City College employees past and present.

Required report

The agreements are included in a 104-page report that is City College’s second attempt to spell out what would happen to students, employees and assets if it closes. Its first attempt — just 14 pages long and submitted in March — was rejected as insufficient by the accrediting commission that announced in July it will yank the college’s accreditation next summer.

Officially, the document is the “closure report” required of all colleges facing potential loss of accreditation.

But City College has labeled its new version a “contingency plan” because administrators say they are determined to turn the school around before anyone can pull its right to operate.

Special Trustee Robert Agrella, appointed by the state in July to run City College after its Board of Trustees was stripped of power, did not re-

Learn more

Read the closure report:
http://bit.ly/1eHKELy

Previous coverage: Read all Chronicle stories about City College of San Francisco’s struggle to remain open and accredited: www.sfchronicle.com/citycollegeofsaccreditation.

If City College of San Francisco loses its accreditation, 21 schools in the Bay Area have agreed to accept its students.

be allowed to finish their studies and receive a diploma or certificate from City College if they wish.

Land value

College officials say they aren’t sure how much the land is worth under their many buildings scattered around the city. But the buildings and their contents come to about $897 million, according to a 2012 insurance report. The college district owns all but its Mission campus, which is on a 75-year lease.

Even so, the buildings cannot be sold until they are first offered “for park or recreational purposes” within the county at below-market prices, according to state law. If the Recreation and Parks Department doesn’t want them, only then could they be sold at market prices.

But the report says the college district run by Agrella might have a good reason for holding on to its property: It “may desire to establish a new community college” at some point.

The 21 colleges that have agreed to enroll misplaced City College students include some as far away as San Jose City College, 47 miles to the south, and Santa Rosa Junior College, 58 miles to the north.

Not invited, apparently, was Solano Community College — the only other Bay Area college in trouble with the accrediting commission. It’s “on warning,” the mildest of three sanction levels.

City College is one of three colleges in the Western accrediting region placed on the most severe sanction, called “show cause.” The others are College of the Sequoias, with 12,000 students in Visalia (Tulare County), and tiny Northern Marianas College, with 1,200 students. It’s in Saipan.

Nanette Asimov is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: nasimov@sffchronicle.com Twitter: @NanetteAsimov
Chabot, Laney renew rivalry

Both Gladiators and Eagles have some momentum going into conference clash

By Matt Schwab

The Chabot and Laney college football teams will renew their rivalry Saturday, and Gladiators coach Danny Calcagno can't help but be excited. "It's a big game," Calcagno said.

It also figures to be a close game after a 6 p.m. kickoff in Hayward.

Both teams are 4-2 overall and 1-0 in the Golden Gate Conference. Chabot, with a young and improving offense, is riding a three-game winning streak in which it has not committed a turnover.

Laney, with a ground-and-pound attack and a strong defense, has won four in a row.

Chabot beat Laney 37-36 last season in a thriller after the Eagles failed to convert a two-point attempt in overtime. It was Chabot's first victory over Laney since 2004, Calcagno's first year guiding the Gladiators. The teams did not meet in 2010 and 2011. Chabot leads the all-time series 18-17.

Laney will be Chabot's fourth opponent this season ranked among the state's top 16 on defense for points allowed, also including American River, College of San Mateo and Diablo Valley. "They can run the football, and they're very good on defense," Calcagno said of Laney. "They're fast. They're big up front. We've got our work cut out for us, and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Chabot freshman quarterback Zach Lujan is averaging 179.2 yards passing per game and is completing 61.7 percent of his throws.

"He's been solid. He's been awesome," Calcagno said of Lujan. "He's been really efficient in just managing the game."

Lujan will be tested by a staunch Laney secondary, featuring shutdown corner Jamal Mayo. Laney's Valentino Miles is averaging 111.8 yards rushing a game.

Chabot's Jajde Rowe carried 31 times for 190 yards and three touchdowns in a 23-21 win over Merced last week.

The Glads' defense pitched a second-half shutdown after allowing 22 points in the first half, with Merced's only additional score coming on a punt return.

Chabot is seeking a third consecutive GGC title, after sharing the crown with Laney in 2012. Adding to the rivalry is the fact many of the teams' players attended the same high schools.

EX-COLTS RUNNING STRONG: Two former James Logan High distance runners are thriving in college. Cal State East Bay freshman Sarah Ferrin is one of the top newcomers in the California Collegiate Athletic Association, and Las Positas sophomore Abraham Espinoza has been on a record-smashing run.

Ferrin, a four-time James Logan Cross Country MVP, recently finished fifth overall and No. 2 on the team in the San Francisco State Gator Invitational, in a season-best time of 22 minutes, 42.8 seconds over 6 kilometers. The Pioneers finished fourth, led by ninth-place Odysseas Tapia.

Ferrin was also 27th at the UC Riverside Invitational and 30th at the Stanford Invitational.

"She's an integral part of our success this year," Pioneers coach Ralph Jones said of Ferrin.

The Pioneers are preparing for Saturday's CCAA meet at Chico State.

Espinoza started the Las Positas season with a smasher. He finished fifth at the Fresno City Invitational at Woodward Park in a school-record time of 20:53 over the 4.0-mile course. Espinoza also finished fifth in the 8K Open Division in the Santa Clara Bronco Invitational. He set the LPC record at the American River Beaver Invitational, and looks to contend for his first Coast Conference meet title in Salinas on Oct. 30.

Dedicated to fitness and nutrition, Espinoza runs 75 to 80 miles each week and is a "great team member," Navarro said. He has drawn interest from six or seven four-year programs, Navarro said.

Contact Matt Schwab at mschwab@bayareanewsgroup.com. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/schwab_matt.
Chabot, Laney renew rivalry

Both Gladiators and Eagles have some momentum going into conference clash

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Oakland Tribune
(Cir. D. 152,739)
(Cir. S. 156,163)

NOV - 2 2013

Community college

Laney 64, Merced 35: Quarterback Garrett Anderson threw a school-record six touchdown passes as the Eagles (5-3, 2-1 Golden Gate Conference) throttled the visiting Blue Devils (3-6, 1-2).

Anderson, a freshman from Berean Christian High, completed 16 of 21 passes for 295 yards. He also threw three interceptions.

Anderson completed 12 of 14 passes for 210 yards and five touchdowns in the first half as the Eagles took a 42-13 lead.

— Staff
Far beyond school playground, bullying common in workplace

By Kristen V. Brown

For Bill Lepowsky, there was something familiar in the unfolding drama between offensive linemen Jonathan Martin and Richie Incognito of the Miami Dolphins. Indignities suffered by Martin at the hands of teammates have raised the question of where a locker-room prank crosses the line to become destructive bullying. It also thrust into the spotlight a harsh fact: Bullying isn’t a problem that ends with high school graduation. Anyone can be bullied, including Stanford-educated, 300-pound NFL offensive tackles.

For Lepowsky, 67, a math professor at Laney College in Oakland, this idea was nothing new. For years he was bullied at his workplace, ha.

Bully continues on A30
Bullying common in the workplace

Bully from page A3

raised by grown colleagues. The situation was so con-

founding that at first he didn't realize he was being

bullied. "It made no sense," he recalled. "It felt like living in

an Alice and Wonderland world where everything is

upside down."

Bullying among kids and teens often makes the head-

lines, but the harassment is common among adults, as

well.

A 2010 survey by the Workplace Bullying Institute

found that 35 percent of the U.S. workforce reported being

bullied at work. Other studies have reported that 1 in 4 peo-

ple have experienced some form of bullying at work.

"It happens at home, at work. People have only
talked about bullying related to children, but the fact is

that right now adult bullying is rampant," said Jill Brooke,
auxiliary expert on adult bullying and author of the recently

published book "The Need to Say No: — How to Be Bullish

and Not Bullied."

A need to control

Bullying among adults often resembles the practice

among children, said Gary Namie, a social psychologist

and director of the Workplace Bullying Institute, which he

and his wife founded while living in Benicia.

"Bullies have a need to control other people, because

something in their own life is not in control," he said.

Bullying among adults is less often physical than it is

among kids and teens, but it is still aggressive. It is often

verbal, involving the spreading of rumors or campa-

igning, or it can be relational, causing someone to be isol-

ated or feel left out.

"Adult bullies are skilled at being covert," Namie said.

"There is a level of sophis-

tication."

In Lepowsky's case, the bullying started when a group of

managers began spreading rumors and false accusations

that threatened his job.

He was constantly accused of small improprieties such as

holding class in the wrong classroom and not attending

meetings that he wasn't supposed to attend in the first

place. He suffered such consequences as being denied a

previously granted sabbatical.

It went on for years, going to his managers didn't help,
because they were among the

bullies.

It was like "being a soldier in a foxhole with shells ex-

plooding," he said.

Often the accusations took time and focus away from his

job. It was emotionally drain-

ing, he said.

After nearly four years, the saga ended when his tor-

mentors moved on from Lan-

ey. Vindication came, he said, when the school got a

new chancellor, who issued him a written apology for

everything that had happened over the years.

Worse on the job

Bullying can occur between colleagues, managers and

employees, friends, family or even strangers online. But it

can be especially damaging in the workplace, Namie said,

where a person's livelihood is at stake and where they are

often trapped in close proximity to their bully.

The case of Martin, the

Dolphins lineman, is a classic example of workplace bull-

lying, Namie said. Martin was reportedly called names, so-
cially isolated and subjected to embarrassment for the

entertainment of veteran players.

For many adults who are

bullied, they're not believed when they talk to others

about their torment, Namie said.

The key to dealing with an

adult bully, said Brooke, the adult bullying expert, is

speaking up to someone who can help, such as a manager

at the workplace. But, she

said, it's crucial to rely on

facts, rather than on emo-
tions, to make a case. It's also

important to stay strong in

the face of a tormentor.

"Bully comes from bull," she said. "Like any animal, they
can smell fear."

In some cases, workplace

rules are in place that

apply to bullying. Frequently,

though, unless laws that pro-
hibit discrimination apply, for

example, the actions of a bully

aren't illegal.

Adults frequently don't

realize that what's happening
to them is bullying, said Alex-

andra Matthews, a Mill

Valley psychologist and pro-
nessor at UCSF.

"It all comes to me stressed about work and I

say, 'You're being bullied,' and they

say, 'Oh my gosh, you're right,'" she said. "People are

not aware of bullying happening

at the adult level."

For Lepowsky, it took read-
ing a book by Namie to real-

ize that was what was happen-
ing to him.

"Suddenly," he said, "every-

thing became very clear."

Kristen V. Brown is a San

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Bill Lepowsky walks from the math lab to his classroom at Laney College. Lepowsky was bullied at work for four years.

Lepowsky published his own text-

book, one reason he was bullied.

Definition of a bully

The National Institutes of Health define

bullying as aggressive behavior to another

person in a "physical, verbal or relational

manner." That includes everything from

taunting, name calling and rumor spreading
to forcing someone to do something against his

will, encouraging others to gang up on a person,
or threatening physical harm.

How to deal with a grown-up bully

- Recognize the bullying: "Give it a name and don't self-blame," said psychologist Gary Namie.
- Speak up: "Silence is a sound," said adult bullying expert Jill Brooke. "If you don't speak up, you won't get the results you want."
- Facts not feelings: When reporting bullying to supervisors, rely on the facts of what happened rather than the emotional effects.
- Get others on your side: "The social ostracism is what is so devastat-
ing," Namie said.
- Stay calm and confident: Bullies respond to fear.
‘IT’S POWERFUL’

Shifting her focus to wild things

Animal encounters detailed in Benicia photographer’s book

By Tony Burchyns
(Vallejo Times-Herald)

BENICIA — Facing a line of buffalo on a snowbound road in Yellowstone National Park, Pat Toth-Smith weighed her options.

She remembered the stories she’d been told about bison charging cars and people who’d gotten too close, resulting in terrible injuries and even death. She sat silently on her snowmobile and waited.

About 15 minutes into the standoff, the Benicia resident did what comes naturally to her — she pulled out her camera and started photographing. Some of those photos, along with a vivid description of how they were obtained, are shared in her new book, “Wild Among Us: True adventures of a female wildlife photographer.”

“There’s something incredible about seeing a wild animal,” Toth-Smith, 57, said in a recent interview.

“It’s like you’re tapping into a primitive side.”

For more than 20 years, Toth-Smith has gone to where the wild things are to capture amazing images of animals on their home turf — from polar bears to wolves to mountain lions. A former registered nurse, she’s also carved out a niche selling those pictures in galleries, art shows and on her website.

“It’s kind of a process that evolved for me,” Toth-Smith said. “I had a lot of fears about traveling alone, hiking alone, but I’ve always had a philosophy that I’d rather fail than not do something because I was afraid to do it. So I had to push myself to do it.”

Her most memorable experiences, which are detailed in her book, include encountering a moose by a riverside during an early morning drive through Yellowstone. Using only a 200-millimeter lens, she snapped a silhouette shot that became one of her first successful wildlife photos.

She’s also photographed mountain lions in the Cascade mountain range, black bears in the Sierra Nevada foothills and polar bears in a remote part of the world.
Canada — to name just a few of her projects. Grizzly bears, bald eagles and wild horses have also been her subjects.

"I can't explain it," Toth-Smith said. "Whenever I see an animal ... especially a large animal like a polar bear ... to see this huge bear so close ... it's really powerful."

Toth-Smith, who's married and has an 11-year-old daughter, has learned to take precautions on her trips. While photographing polar bears near Churchill, Canada, in 2009, she traveled with a group aboard elevated "tundra buggies."

Other times, she said she relies on her intuition to stay at a safe distance from the creatures she's stalking.

"I actually feel like I'm a very intuitive person," she said. "For years as a nurse, I had to be very observant when I saw a patient ... and I use those skills with animals ... because you can kind of tell if an animal is agitated. It's about distance with wildlife. You just have to be far enough away that you are not intruding on their space."

In the case of the buffalo-snowmobiling standoff, she eventually escaped harm by edging closer to the mountainside next to the road. Slowly, the buffalo lumbered by, some only at arm's length, without incident.

"The big reason I wrote the book is I just felt like these animals are incredible," Toth-Smith said. "We tend to be so afraid of them ... but they're more fearful of us."

A New Jersey native, Toth-Smith developed an early interest in wildlife and photography. Her outdoorsy father loved taking her and her siblings on hunting trips, she said, and her mom was an avid amateur photographer.

After starting a nursing career, she moved to California in her late 20s and started exploring wilderness again. She joined hiking and camping groups, including the Sierra Club, where she met like-minded people.

At the same time, she became more interested in photography. She enrolled in night-school classes centered on black-and-white images, and the world of the single-lens reflex camera. Soon she was spending hours taking pictures of animals in natural settings and developing her own work.

Gradually, she began making the shift from nursing to professional photography. She further trained at Laney College in Oakland, where she won awards as a student photojournalist and was hired to work in the school's community relations department.

Nature photography took hold of her when she began to make pilgrimages to national parks. After about seven years of adventures, she developed a portfolio and started marketing her work to galleries. Little by little, her career began to take off.

"It's always my hope when people come into my booth at art shows ... that they'll want to go out in nature themselves," she said. "That's why it's spiritual for me, in a sense. If I get one more person to be out in nature, that's a good thing."

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**PAT TOTH-SMITH**

**Residence:** Benicia

**Age:** 57

**Occupation:** Wildlife photographer

**Quote:** "I've always had a philosophy that I'd rather fail than not do something because I was afraid to do it."

**CHECK OUT HER WORK**

District chief aiming to get 80% of upper-grade students into academies

By Kathryn Baron
EdSource Today

OAKLAND — Some superintendents have a pat answer when asked to assess the quality of their schools — they’re all equally good, they might respond. But Gary Yee, the new acting superintendent of Oakland Unified School District, had a different answer when parent Maria Zaragoza asked why her child’s high school does not have any of the innovative educational programs available at some of the district’s top-performing high schools.

Yee sprang from his chair and without hesitation made a public pledge: “I accept the challenge you put to us to make every school better.”

That was, after all, why Yee and about 100 parents, teachers, school administrators, students and city leaders, including Oakland Mayor Jean Quan, had gathered on a chilly Wednesday morning recently on the soccer field at Life Academy of Health and Bioscience, a high school in East Oakland.

A few minutes earlier, the superintendent had told the group that his goal is to get 80 percent of Oakland’s high school students in grades 10, 11 and 12 into what are known as linked learning academies — programs that integrate academics with internships and job shadowing to provide real-world work experiences for students. At Life Academy, students intern in hospitals, medical offices, retirement homes and elementary school programs for at-risk children.

Oakland Unified has 26 academies in 11 of its 17 comprehensive, alternative and continuation high schools. Together, the academies serve about 2,800 students, or 42 percent of the district’s 10th-through 12th-grade students. The district has until mid-2016 to boost participation by 2,270 students.

Ambitious goal

Oakland is actually better positioned than most districts to make this transformation. Four years ago, former superintendent Tony Smith, who left the district in June, launched a community
Schools

Continued from Page 1

schools movement to focus resources on each student by engaging health, community and social services agencies in supporting children and their families. Linked learning, which requires business and industry participation and provides individual support to students, is part of that movement.

"It's really a universal high school transformation," Yee said.

But getting to 80 percent presents hurdles that cross all sectors of education: money, time, teacher preparation, staffing, curriculum and class scheduling. The district has to start new programs, expand existing academies and sell students on some that are underenrolled in some of the larger, comprehensive high schools.

The district is focusing this year on increasing the number of academies at three schools in the city's poorest neighborhoods. One of them, Castlemont High School, which currently has a sustainable urban design academy, is close to starting a second program either in public health or manufacturing and engineering. Last spring, McClymonds High created a science, technology, engineering and math center, known as STEM, and Gretchen Livsey, director of Oakland Unified's Linked Learning Office, said the plan is to eventually have every student at the school in an academy. That's the structure at Fremont High, where students attend one of three academies - in media, engineering and architecture, or law and public service - housed at the campus.

Academies cost more to operate than traditional schools.

Oakland officials do not have current financial information on what the expansion would cost, but to finance the new academies, Oakland Unified plans to apply to the Career Pathways Trust, a $250 million fund for linked learning programs created by a new state law, Senate Bill 594, Livsey said.

The state's new school funding law, the Local Control Funding Formula, will also open up additional money that could be spent on academies, Yee said.

Making it real

The idea behind linked learning is to make education relevant and engaging for students by integrating rigorous academics with real-world experience through internships in local business and industry and job shadowing. Academies focus on a theme, such as health, law, science, engineering or green energy.

Students at Life Academy, often highlighted as a model linked learning campus, select a career pathway in medicine, mental health or biotechnology and get internships where they work with professionals in labs at local hospitals, the Chabot Space and Science Center or public health advocacy organizations.

For many of Oakland's low-income, Latino and African-American students, academies expose them, often for the first time, to the idea that they have opportunities beyond what they see in their neighborhoods and at home.

"I used to think that college wasn't for me," said Elizabeth Beltrán, a poised and confident 2009 graduate of Life Academy, at the Oct. 28 ceremony announcing Oakland's planned expansion. "My parents and neighbors didn't go to college, and that is how I saw myself. I couldn't get beyond that."

Through the school's linked learning program, Beltrán interned at Alta Bates Medical Center in Berkeley. She also had a mentor who had been to college and could guide her in a way her parents could not. Beltrán graduated from UC Berkeley in May with a degree in English literature and plans to become a high school teacher. She currently works in Life Academy's after-school program helping students who are struggling in class.

"Linked learning became critical to my success. It changed the way I saw myself," Beltrán said. "It could help others transform the way they see themselves."

On the Life Academy soccer field on Oct. 23, the district announced a partnership with the city of Oakland and Peralta Community College District to create pathways from high school to college to career.

The majority of Oakland students enroll in community college after high school, rather than enrolling in four-year universities.

A key part of the new collaboration is a data-sharing agreement that will make it possible to follow every high school graduate in Oakland to see what happens when they get to community college.

That will give a clear picture of whether high schools are doing a good job of preparing students for college-level work and where the gaps are between academy and community college programs.

Fifty years ago, when Superintendent Yee was a student at Oakland's Castlemont High School, he said the goal of his classmates was to graduate and get a job. Today, it's to graduate and go to college. But just getting into college isn't enough, Yee said.
Host of holiday happenings in works at Peralta Colleges

I can already smell the turkey as Thanksgiving and the holiday season approaches. In fact, by the look of the shop windows, it's already here. With the holidays come lots of opportunities to share the season with friends and family and to get into the community holiday spirit.

There are a host of special events coming up at our community colleges — Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Oakland’s Laney and Merritt colleges. You’ll want to put these happenings on your holiday calendar this season.

The Laney College and College of Alameda dance departments are presenting a debut performance of “Nutcracker International” at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center on the Laney College campus.

This homegrown “Nutcracker” is centered in Oakland and is a new take on an old holiday tradition. “Nutcracker International” highlights the wide range of communities and peoples found in the East Bay, including the Aztec, African American, Haitian, Cambodian, Vietnamese and LGBT communities.

Choreographer Colette Eloi crafts an original version of the “Nutcracker’s” snow scene using traditional Haitian dance. And in an effort to update the ethnic relevance of the various dances featured in the traditional ballet, choreographers Zak Diouf and Danny Nguyen recreate the Arabian and Chinese tea dances using traditional West African, Vietnamese and Cambodian dance themes. Narrator Mama Clara delivers an educational storyline that weaves the magical scenes together.

Laney’s culinary arts department will prepare a smorgasbord of international desserts and holiday dishes — deliciously available in the lobby area of the theater — to compliment the “Nutcracker International” dance suites.

Admission to this must-see event is $15 for adults and $10 for students. Admission is free, however, on Dec. 21 with a donation of a wrapped gift for a child under age 10. Tickets are available at the door one hour before show time.

Santa Claus will make an appearance after the matinee show on Dec. 21. Don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate the holidays and enjoy the rich and splendid diversity of the East Bay.

For more information, contact artistic director Priya Shah at vsah@peralta.edu.

For you choral music fans out there (count me as one!), there will be a special holiday performance by the Oakland City Chorus (formerly the Laney College Choir) at noon on Dec. 4, also at the Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center at Laney College. Led by music director John Reeger, who brings a distinguished background to the music department at Laney, the choir will be singing choral pieces in liturgical Latin, Medieval Spanish, Hebrew and a spiritual in English. For more information on this charming event and how you can become involved in the choir yourself, visit http://www.laney.edu/wp/music/choir/.

Since this is the season of giving, why not consider lending a hand to our community college students for the holidays by providing them with scholarship opportunities? The Peralta Colleges Foundation will be hosting a gala scholarship dinner on Nov. 21 at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Oakland. Tickets for this event, which honor Merritt College’s very own baseball great Joe Morgan, range from $75 to $250. Proceeds from the dinner will go to student scholarship funds.

What a great way to ring in the season of giving, have a wonderful meal, honor a local baseball hero and send kids to college. For more information, visit http://web.peralta.edu/foundation/.

I’ll have more holiday treats for you next month as the Peralta Colleges continue to put the word “community” into our community colleges.

Reach Jeffrey Heyman at jheyman@peralta.edu or follow him on Twitter @jheyman.
Clark & Sullivan starts project
Clark & Sullivan Construction of Sparks said last week that a joint venture it created with Walsh Construction of Chicago has started work on a $42 million contract from California's Bernalita Community College District.

The project involves construction of a 110,000-square-foot Center for Science and Allied Health on the Merritt College campus in Oakland. It's scheduled for August 2015 completion.

Community college football

Laney 29, Diablo Valley 14: Virgil Bridges threw for 209 yards and three touchdowns to earn MVP honors as the host Eagles built a 29-point lead early then held off Diablo Valley for a Bay Bowl win.

The teams met in the same game a year ago, with the Vikings winning 30-27.

A combination of DVC (5-6) mistakes and great execution by Laney helped build the lead. The Vikings went three-and-out on three of their first four possessions and didn't get their initial first down until the possession after Laney (8-3) scored to make it 29-0 early in the second quarter.

— Damon Esper, correspondent
City requests injunction to halt closure of CCSF

By Bob Egelko

City Attorney Dennis Herrera asked a judge Monday to block a commission from shutting down City College of San Francisco by revoking its accreditation next summer, saying the commission’s review was biased by conflicts of interest and driven by a political agenda to limit access to community colleges.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges used a review process “..plagued with irregularities that demonstrate the commission’s bias against the college and its constituents,” Herrera’s office said in a motion for a preliminary injunction in San Francisco Superior Court.

Unless the courts intervene to protect CCSF and its 85,000 students, said Deputy City Attorney Sara Eisenberg, “our California community colleges will be subject to unfair and unlawful treatment.”

The private, nonprofit commission, based in Novato, is one of six regional agencies overseen by the U.S. Department of Education that provide accreditation for two-year community colleges. Without accreditation, the colleges are ineligible for the state and federal funds that keep them operating.

In July 2012, the commission gave CCSF notice of its most severe sanction, saying the college was so beset by mismanagement and financial problems that it no longer deserved official recognition. It said management was fragmented between administrators and faculty and had failed to make budget cuts while state funding evaporated.

The commission issued its final decision last July, finding that CCSF — despite a flurry of management reorganization, revenue increases and pay cuts — had solved virtually none of its problems and would have its accreditation withdrawn in July 2014.

State college officials have CCSF continues on C3

City seeks injunction to halt CCSF closure

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replaced the school’s elected trustees with a special trustee, Robert Agruella, who has appealed the commission’s decision but opposes Herrera’s lawsuit and another suit filed in September by the faculty union, the California Federation of Teachers. The union also asked the court for an injunction Monday.

Herrera sued the commission on the city’s behalf in August. In Monday’s request for an injunction, Eisenberg, the city’s lawyer, claimed the panel was motivated by its opposition to the “open access mission of community colleges — to provide educational opportunities for anyone, regardless of income or ability.”

While CCSF’s faculty, staff and students have been strong advocates of that policy, Eisenberg said, the commission has backed a “narrower junior college model” excluding students who were not seeking degrees.

The commission stacked its CCSF evaluation team with advocates of its position, Herrera said, including Peter Crabtree, dean of Laney College and husband of commission President Barbara Beno.

Herrera’s office also cited the U.S. Department of Education’s findings that the commission’s assessment process was conflicted because both its 17-member evaluation team in 2012 and its nine-member review panel this year included only one professor. Federal regulations require such agencies to make a “good-faith effort ... to have both academic and administrative personnel reasonably represented.”

The commission has issued warnings of loss of accreditation against six other community colleges since 2006, but all six had been warned or sanctioned in the past, some of them multiple times — in contrast to CCSF, which has never been sanctioned before, Herrera said.

Herrera requested a Dec. 24 hearing on an injunction, which would allow the college to keep its accreditation while the suit continued. The commission said his claims were meritless.

Bob Egelko is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. E-mail: begelko@sffchronicle.com
Obama heckler has history of protest
Student is a rising immigrant activist

By Matt O'Brien

San Francisco — When organizers placed Ju Hong on a prominent position behind President Barack Obama on Monday, they probably did not realize they were handing him a high-profile lectern to one of the Bay Area’s gutsiest immigration reform activists.

Emboldened by growing immigrant youth movement and irritated by years of fruitless political talk, Hong has never been one to sit as a smiling backdrop.

So it surprised many in the audience, but not his friends, when the 24-year-old in a sharp gray blazer loudly criticized the president’s inaction, forcing Obama to crane his head and defend himself.

The scene-making protest was not Hong’s first, but certainly his bravest, since the South Korean immigrant emerged as a student activist at Laney College and later UC Berkeley.

Invited to the Chinatown speech as a member of the “Dreamer” movement of young people brought to the country illegally as children, Hong said he was there just to listen but ended up being asked by a friend to stand in a group behind Obama. He grew annoyed as he heard the president blaming Congress for stalling immigration reform.

“Usually we’re supposed to be props,” Hong said. “I was shaking a little bit, but thinking about me and my family and my community and my friends, the pain they have suffered under the Obama administration … it really sparked a buildup of my anger, it made me speak out.”

Plowed into the United States by his mother when he was 2, Hong adjusted quickly to American life. He played basketball, ran cross country and earned high grades at Alameda High School, but never knew about his family’s immigration status until he was preparing for college. The more he learned about immigration policy, the more he grew frustrated by the politics surrounding it.

Even as the youth movement of which he was a part elicited growing sympathy, Hong grew concerned that others — such as his mother and sister — would be left behind.

“Looking at my mother, sacrificing her time and energy just to support my education, it was heartbreaking for me. I became a little bit angry. I couldn’t wait for politicians to just talk,” Hong told this newspaper three years ago.

Hong was one of six protesters arrested in August for interrupting the UC Board of Regents as it approved former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as the new UC president. Hong’s message was similar. He described Napolitano as the chief enforcer of policies that have deported nearly 2 million people during the Obama presidency.

And in 2011, Hong was jailed and risked deportation when he and other activists blocked a street in San Bernardino during an immigration rally protesting the partnerships between local police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Like many Asian immigrants in the country illegally, Hong and his mother and sister all entered the country on tourist visas that expired soon after they arrived. Hong, however, now has a work permit, driver’s license and cannot be deported because of the Obama administration’s order last year granting a reprieve to young immigrants like him. He is now pursuing a master’s in public administration at San Francisco State. His sister and mother remain at risk.
OAKLAND

American Indian powwow
not just feathers, fry bread

By Carolyn Jones

Believe it or not, there were a few people in the Bay Area on Sunday not watching football.

But they were plenty loud and celebratory nonetheless. At the annual powwow at Laney College in Oakland, a few hundred American Indians forsook football for drums, dancing, fry bread and old friends.

"This is my life. This is more important than football," said Gabe Castro, a security supervisor from Tracy and member of the Tubatulabal tribe, who trekked to Oakland to watch his daughter dance.

He did make a small concession to football, though—a Native American-style beaded 49ers medallion dangled around his neck.

"It's still important to represent," he said with a smile.

But just about everyone else at the event was clad in a vibrant array of feathers, deerskin, shawls and dresses, representing nearly as many tribes as there were attendees, from the Ohlone to the Sioux and everyone in between.

Glenn Adams, 64, a Lakota and Yaqui Indian who lives in Carmichael

Angel Garcia dances during the fifth annual powwow sponsored by the American Indian Child Resource Center and held at Laney College in Oakland.

Powwow continues on C3
Heritage, pride on display at powwow

(Sacramento County), was wearing traditional Crow regalia with beaded arm bands and fringe, plus an addition of his own: an American flag headband.

"Once a woman told me she found that disrespectful," he said, referring to the U.S. government's less-than-stellar history of Native American relations.

"But I told her that I — and lots of other Native Americans — had served in the military, and we're proud of that," he said. "There's a warrior tradition, but there's lots of different kinds of warriors. She seemed to understand then."

The event, hosted by the American Indian Child Resource Center in Oakland, drew several hundred participants from throughout the West Coast. Many of them journeyed to a different powwow every weekend, in hopes of seeing old friends and keeping their traditions alive.

Tom Phillips, a social work instructor at California State University Stanislaus, has been announcing powwows for 45 years and hasn't gotten bored yet, he said.

"Powwows are very important for us," he said. "They serve as a way to define and preserve our culture, and pass it down to the children. For me, it's therapy. It sustains me."

The day was a near-continuous stream of dancing, drums, singing and ceremonies. Kids, grandparents and dancers of all stripes formed concentric circles as drummers set the tone.

Damian Willson, 35, an environmental specialist who lives in Castro Valley and sits on the center's board, said he ventures to a powwow about once a month.

"It's a chance to see people, sit and visit," he said. "And plus you always meet new people."

Some of those "new people" might turn out to be cousins, said Bill Marin, a retired construction accountant from Oakland and a Washoe Indian.

"When I walk around the foothills in my Washoe sweatshirt, people always ask, 'Who's your grandma?' Usually we're related," he said.

"Or sometimes it turns out we're related by just being friends."

He and his wife travel to powwows throughout the West selling T-shirts and his wife's Navajo beadwork.

For him, the draw is seeing friends and revising his Washoe traditions, even though the dancing and songs at any given powwow can range dramatically.

"Some people say, 'Hey, we don't do this kind of dancing back on our pueblo,' " he said. "But, hey, you know what? We're not there anymore. We're here. So let's enjoy the feathers and drums and have a good time."

Carolyn Jones is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer; E-mail: carolynjones@sfbchronicle.com

Participants representing dozens of tribes carry flags during the annual powwow at Oakland's Laney College.

Charles Garcia dresses his son Angel in a traditional tribal costume for a dance performance at the powwow.
‘Nutcracker International’ has modern twist

Laney, College of Alameda put on innovative show

By Sally Hogarty

OAKLAND — Video backdrops of Lake Merritt, Fruitvale and Fairyland and a young girl asleep on AC Transit's #1 bus are not the typical images associated with the perennial favorite "The Nutcracker." But, the collaboration between Laney College and College of Alameda on this favorite holiday treat is anything but typical.

"I really wanted a new take on this old holiday tradition," said Priya Shah, co-chair of Laney's dance department. "Oakland has such a wonderful diverse community, and I wanted to honor all the various ethnic and community groups that make this such an amazing city."

Shah’s vision resulted in "Nutcracker International," which plays at 7 p.m. on Dec. 20 and at 2 p.m. on Dec. 21 at the Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center on the Laney College campus, 900 Falloni St., in Oakland.

A complex undertaking, the production features dance students from Laney and College of Alameda, two community dance groups, Laney's culinary and cosmetology departments as well as video footage and special graphic effects.

A new character, Mama Clara, narrates Act I, weaving the magical scenes together along with video and special effects to give an historical overview of Oakland. Ericka Padillo-Morales, who is a student at Laney and a staff member at the College of Alameda, plays Mama Clara and helped co-write the narrative with Shah, who serves as artistic director of the project.

To help set the show in Oakland, Shah had videographers take film footage of various Oakland landmarks and neighborhoods.

"We have the Act I party scene taking place in the Cameron-Stanford House on Lake Merritt and the Land of the Sweets in Act II occurs at Fairyland, so we will have footage of those locations," Shah said.

Shah also changed the young girl Clara from falling asleep on the parker floor to falling asleep on the #1 AC Transit bus.

"I really wanted to update the ethnic relevance of the various dances and show the beauty and diversity of Oakland," Shah said.

To that end, choreographers Zaiki Dion (Laney College) and Danny Nguyen (College of Alameda) have re-created the Arabian Chocolate dance into the Senegalese Cinq Cenines (cookies), which will be performed by Dion's professional dance company, and the Chinese Tea dance became Vietnamese Honey Comb Cake and Cambodian Sesame Cookie dances using traditional West African, Vietnamese and Cambodian dance themes. Laney College's Colette Bli also restaged the original "Nutcracker's" snow scene into a traditional Haitian dance.

Another recreation celebrates the LGBT community with the traditional Russian dance transformed into Russian Rainbow Rib-

Tickets to the "Nutcracker International" are $15 for adults and $10 for children. Admission is free, however, at the Dec. 19 matinee with a donation of a wrapped gift for a child under the age of 10. Santa Claus will also make an appearance after the matinee show. Tickets will only be sold at the door. For more information, email vsah@peralta.edu.

Bon Candy complete with rainbow colored costumes, and the Spanish dance, performed by the Aztec group Xochiquetzal, has a distinctive salsa flavor.

"It's going to be an amazing show," Nguyen said...

"We have colorful, elaborate costumes and very athletic, strength moves, even an aerial circus act. It's a very collaborative, very diverse project that shows how strong we all are when united."

Laney's Culinary Department will add to the fun with its recreations of the various dances such as the Russian Rainbow Ribbon Candy and the Senegalese Cinq Cenines into actual edible treats to be enjoyed at intermission.
Peralta TV airing lots of holiday shows

Actually the weather outside has been frightful, at least for California. Frigid is not a word generally associated with our weather here in the East Bay. But with freeze warnings and the like, why not enjoy the warmth of the holidays at home this year? Build yourself a traditional fire (if it's not a Spare the Air day), grab a hot beverage, sit back and watch the holiday festivities on our community's college television station, Peralta TV.

Peralta TV — seen on cable channels 27 and 28 and AT&T U-verse channel 169 — has put together an outstanding lineup of programs this holiday season, all provided to you as a community service of the Peralta Community College District.

If you missed the Oakland Children's Holiday Parade on Dec. 7, you can relive the experience from the warmth of your living room. The parade is one of the largest in the country with floats, bands and balloons all geared toward making the holidays fun for kids. Peralta TV has been providing the television production for the parade for a decade and its broadcasts are seen across the country on PBS stations. You can watch it on Peralta TV at 11 a.m. Dec. 23, with repeats at 1 p.m. Christmas Day; 11 a.m. Dec. 26; and 3 p.m. on Dec. 31. You won't want to miss this holiday spectacular.

Ever wonder how to make a holiday wreath? The Merritt College horticulture department will be happy to show you on Peralta TV's homegrown production, "SeedUp!" The secrets — and pleasures — of wreath-making at home will be revealed in a special holiday edition of "SeedUp!" at 10 a.m. Dec. 21 and at 10 a.m. Dec. 28. More and more people are decrying not just the halls, but also their entire houses for the holidays. And it isn't something unique to Alameda's Thompson Avenue (aka Christmas Tree Lane). In December, "In Focus" takes a look at Christmas displays in Austria. Have things gotten a bit out of hand in this Alpine country? You be the judge. Watch at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 23 or at 11 a.m. Christmas Day on Peralta TV.

If you enjoy holiday music, a live performance by the Chapman University Conservatory of Music gathers together music from around the world and across the years in a celebration of the winter holidays that will have you singing along for days. Watch "Chapman Holiday Wassail!" at 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

The holidays would not be the holidays without a festive table. Peralta TV has several seasonal culinary programs that will make your mouth water and get you into the kitchen. "A Culinary Journal" features holiday dishes throughout the month. Watch this impressive series on Dec. 23, Dec. 27, and Dec. 31, all at 130 p.m.

How about sampling some quintessential Catalan Christmas fare this season? Find out the secrets of this incredible cuisine in a special holiday episode of "Las Recetas De Mi Madre," broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 24, only on Peralta TV.

With that, let me join my colleagues at the Peralta Colleges — Berkeley City College, College of Alameda, Laney and Merritt Colleges in Oakland — in wishing you a joyous holiday season and a very happy New Year!
LOCAL DIGEST
Levi’s bid for title game fails
Report: Cal’s Kline to Oregon St.

By Jeff Faraudo
jfaraudo@bayareaweekly.com

A shortage of hotel rooms in the immediate vicinity and the lack of a track record were among the reasons Levi's Stadium came up short in its bid to host the 2017 college football national championship game.

Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff, said the Bay Area made a strong bid for the game that was awarded Monday to Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. “They were close,” he said. “We’re hoping Levi’s Stadium will be right in there in the future.”

Organizers passed on Levi’s, one of six bidders for the Jan. 9, 2017, game, because other cities feature “more hotel rooms within a closer radius of the stadium,” Hancock said, because Levi’s was among several bids unable to deliver on certain business aspects of the agreement. Hancock also said the selection committee will be more comfortable with Levi's after it has been operation for a couple of years. The facility is set to open next summer, with the 49ers moving in for the 2014 season.

Laney College offensive lineman Wendell Taiee has orally committed to Iowa State, Laney coach John Beam confirmed. Taiee, a 6-foot-6, 330-pound left guard, helped Laney finish 8-3 and rank seventh in the state in rushing with 252.8 yards per game.

Golf
Former Cal golfer Max Homa and current junior Michael Kim are tied for ninth and tied for 17th, respectively, after the fifth of six rounds at the final stage of the Web.com Tour Qualifying Tournament in La Quinta.

Staff writers Jimmy Durkin and Phil Jensen and wire services contributed to this report.

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BERKELEY

Council weighs minimum wage hike

City's lowest-paid would get boost of almost $3 per hour

By Judith Scherr
Correspondent

BERKELEY — The city's lowest-paid workers could get an almost $3-per-hour wage boost if a proposed minimum wage ordinance wins City Council approval.

The proposal "ensures that we will eventually have a wage that allows people who work in Berkeley to live in Berkeley," Angus Teter, chairwoman of the Berkeley Labor Commission's Minimum Wage Subcommittee, told the commission and some three dozen members of the public at a hearing last week.

The proposal would raise the minimum base hourly wage from the state's $8 per hour to $10.74 per hour and would add $2.22 per hour for medical benefits if the employer doesn't already provide them. The minimum wage would rise annually with the cost of living.

Additionally, beginning midyear in 2016, the minimum wage would increase annually by 55 cents per hour until it reaches Berkeley's "living wage" rate, the hourly wage the city requires its contractors and suppliers to pay their workers.

The living wage, tied to cost-of-living increases, is now about $2 higher than the proposed minimum wage.

The additional 55 cents per hour would allow the minimum wage, over four or five years, to catch up to the living wage, which, Teter said, "gives businesses time to implement changes without the full shock of the adjustment coming all at once."

The Berkeley Restaurant Alliance and State Restaurant Association are the ordinance's most vocal critics.

David Rowe, representing Jupiter and Triple Rock beer houses, told the commission that Berkeley should stick by the state's minimum wage, slated to grow to $9 per hour in July and to $10 per hour in January 2016.

Alternatively, he said a regional minimum wage is acceptable.

For Berkeley to have its own minimum wage ordinance, which is higher than the state, really puts Berkeley at a competitive disadvantage from its surrounding neighbors," Rowe said, citing cost increases for supplies and vendors as well as labor.

"We don't really want to start raising prices," he said.

Rowe further argued that it isn't fair for tipped servers to get the same mandated minimum wage as dishwashers and cooks. Proponents contended that increased wages would stimulate the economy and provide a stable workforce.

Ned Perlestein, retired economics instructor at Laney College, argued for the inclusion of tipped workers, saying that many restaurant jobs are part-time and don't include vacations, sick days or medical benefits.

"We believe in the mythology that small businesses generate a lot of jobs, (but) they generate a lot of crappy jobs," he said.

Retired social worker Carol Brill addressed the consequences of poverty for the community at large.

"We see (low-wage workers) in social services and we see them on the streets of our city," Brill said. "It's not acceptable for the richest country in the world not to be able to take care of its people."

Cities across the country are addressing poverty wages (the federal minimum is $7.25 per hour — $15,080 per year) by enacting their own standards.

In November, voters in SeaTac, Wash. hiked the minimum wage to $15 and some elected officials in neighboring Seattle want to follow suit.

Leaders in the District of Columbia recently passed an $11.50 per hour phased in minimum wage.

San Francisco's minimum wage will be at $10.74 as of Jan. 1, and Mayor Ed Lee is calling on voters to raise it to $15. San Jose has a minimum wage of $10.15.

Berkeley labor commissioners didn't vote on the ordinance Wednesday but asked the subcommittee to add a higher minimum wage for corporations with more than 1,000 employees in addition to the basic proposal.