

Mountain View VOICE

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MVLA picks new trustee

JOE MITCHNER IS A STANFORD GRAD, FINANCE EXPERT, LITTLE LEAGUE PARENT

By Susan Hong

Joseph Mitchner, a Mountain View resident and self-described finance “nerd,” was the only one who applied for a Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District board of trustees opening. He got it.



Joe Mitchner

The MVLA trustees unanimously appointed Mitchner to serve as the board’s fifth member Monday night, replacing David Williams, who resigned last June. He’ll be paid \$252 a month for his service.

As an appointed member, Mitchner will serve as a trustee until the seat goes up for re-election in November 2008. Mitchner said he plans to run for a full term at that time. Elected board members serve a

► See **MVLA**, page 6



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

I CAN'T GET NO ...

Henry Carges, 12, plays “Satisfaction” at CSMA’s “School of Rock” workshop last Thursday. The weeklong workshop, where young students learn the fundamentals of rock music, culminated with a concert on Friday.

► See **BIODIESEL**, page 6

Biodiesel blend available at the pump

ROTTEN ROBBIE, LOCATED AT WHISMAN AND MIDDLEFIELD, GAUGES DEMAND

By Daniel DeBolt

For the first time in Mountain View, biodiesel fuel can now be purchased at the pump — at the Rotten Robbie station on the corner of Whisman and Middlefield Roads.

For two months the station has been selling a blend of biodiesel designated as “B20” from former

kerosene pumps, feeding a steady trickle of dedicated biodiesel users. The station is off the beaten path, but many users may have found it on Web sites like www.biodiesel.org, which lists pump locations. The nearest biodiesel stations are in Redwood City and San Jose.

“We’re still getting the word out,” said owner Tom Robinson, president of Robinson Oil Corpora-

tion. “If you don’t happen to drive through there you wouldn’t necessarily know.”

The B20 blend of biodiesel is made up of 20 percent vegetable oil and 80 percent petroleum diesel, and goes for the same price per gallon as regular diesel. Selling a purer blend of biodiesel, such as B80 or



MOFFETT'S WATCHDOG

Lenny Siegel is ‘Father RAB’

LOCAL NEWS | P.5

Disputes common over urban forest

MONTEREY PINE ONE OF MANY TREES FROM THE 1950S THAT FACE DISEASE, DEVELOPMENT

By Daniel DeBolt

In Mountain View’s many neighborhoods, few things add more character than the heritage trees. But with disputes between neighbors over the trees becoming commonplace, few things are as contentious either.

The issue popped up again last month on Carmelita Drive, when a homeowner tried to cut down a 35-foot-tall deodar cedar, but was thwarted by neighbors and a forestry board that ruled against removal — despite a city staff report saying the tree

could be prone to failure if a large, problematic branch was removed.

Now the tree must stay, even though the owner doesn’t want it. “It’s not very pretty,” said a hired hand at the property last week, adding that it drops sap everywhere. He is busy getting the Carmelita property ready for demolition so it can be subdivided into two lots — but the tree does not stand in the way of those plans.

He added that neighbors watch him “like a hawk,” probably concerned he might kill the tree with rock salt or a copper spike — something people have been known to do to get around heritage tree laws.

Neighbors Christine Crimal-

di, Robin Iwai and Pat Scandalis filed the winning appeal, which read in part, “The tree is in excellent shape with no sign of disease. It is an old tree and a landmark for the neighborhood. There has been extensive recent development on Carmelita Drive. Developers have not been meeting the city’s provisions for street tree planting. Subsequently, the neighborhood is experiencing a net loss of trees.”

Criminaldi said appeals to save a tree approved for removal are successful about half of the time. Of 544 heritage trees that owners sought to

remove in the 2006-07 fiscal year, three were saved by appeal. (A heritage tree is defined as any tree at least 48 inches in circumference or any cedar, oak or redwood tree at least 12 inches in circumference.) Many more are saved every year when the city initially denies the removal application or owners decide their needs can be met by pruning the tree instead of pursuing removal, according to Bruce Hurlburt, parks section manager.

Hurlburt said the city often receives a heritage tree removal request when a property changes hands. City staffers review heritage tree removal requests to

► See **TREES**, page 10



KELLEY COX

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990
Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.

Ellen & Katie Saviano



SUNNYVALE ■ Gorgeous Mediterranean-style home nestled at the end of a private tree-lined street. 3bd/2.5ba with new carpet and paint. 2436+/- sf. **\$1,050,000**

Matt Treakle



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ 2bd/1ba condo with new carpet, plantation shutters, and much more. Desirable ground floor location near the pool and greenbelt. Los Altos schools. **\$439,000**

Maisy Young



SUNNYVALE ■ End-unit offering great architectural design. Built in 1991, 3bd/2ba + loft with partial hardwood floors. Homestead High School. **\$788,000**

Mary Marley



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Downtown Mountain View. Spacious 2bd/2ba TH with vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, and inside laundry. Large private yard, + garage. **\$615,000**

Christy Ying



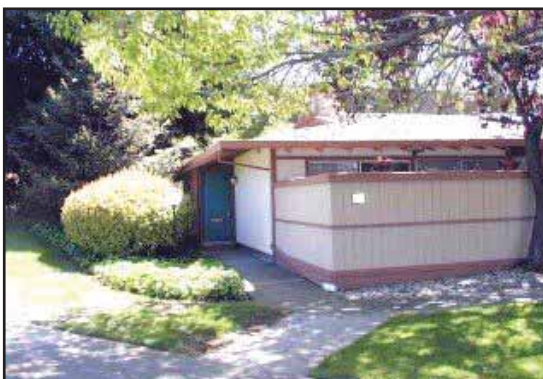
SUNNYVALE ■ Spacious townhome. Updated 3bd/2.5ba + large loft area. Granite counters in kitchen. LR with vaulted ceilings. Private yard + attached 2-car garage. **\$639,000**

Marc Roos



WILLOW GLEN ■ Exceptional 2bd/1.5ba downtown Willow Glen townhome. Many upgrades including Pergo wood floors, dual paned windows, + central A/C. **\$519,000**

Margaret Grant



MOUNTAIN VIEW ■ Light and bright 1bd/1ba with remodeled kitchen, skylights, Berber carpeting and plenty of storage. 2 patio doors. Great location. **\$376,000**

Cindy & Ashley Kodweis



LOS ALTOS ■ Stylish, pristine 2-story townhome located in desirable North Los Altos. Spacious 3bd/2.5ba remodeled throughout. Lovely patio and yard. **\$949,000**

Mike Jasper



SAN MATEO ■ Updated 3bd/2ba home with bright, formal entry with skylight, garden window, hardwood floors + dual pane windows. MBR opens to rear yard. **\$779,000**

Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in Downtown Mountain View. Pictures and interviews by Melody Dye.

What's your favorite locally owned business in Mountain View?



"We like a lot of places around here — Taqueria Los Charros, Ohana BBQ, Cascal. I'd say Los Charros is my favorite because it has the best food and the people are really friendly."

Max Braxton Taylor, with sister Elena, Sunnyvale



"Dana St. Roasting Company, the local independent coffee shop."

Antonio Giovanni, Mountain View



"I just went to Therapy, the clothing store, and that was pretty cool. I like the used book stores around here a lot; East-West always has interesting stuff — candles, jewelry, things like that. Books Inc. is another favorite."

Elsa Leiva, Mountain View



"I work here now, but I haven't had much of a chance to explore the downtown. I'll have to check it out."

Valeria Martinez, Mountain View



"I just come out here for the acupuncture. This place [the Natural Healing Center] has some great practitioners."

Keith Simon, Saratoga

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■ CRIMEWATCH

GRAND THEFT, 100 BLOCK BRYANT ST., 7/29

A man was arrested for theft after officers found him in possession of the keys to a stolen BMW.

Officers had first detained the man and two of his companions after they spotted them acting suspiciously in a parking garage on Bryant Street. The three men identified themselves as Nortenos from Redwood City but could not explain how they got to Mountain View or why they were in the parking garage at midnight. They claimed not to have a car.

After a search, officers found a BMW key in one of the men's pants. The officers pressed a button on the remote-access key and a nearby BMW responded, which turned out to be a stolen vehicle out of Redwood City.

The man with the key in his pocket was then arrested. Officers released the other two because they could not be connected to the car.

ASSAULT, 1400 BLOCK N. SHORELINE BLVD., 7/29

Three adult Hispanic males were detained by security guards at the Computer History Museum after a fight broke out. One of the potential suspects got away before guards could question him. The other two men were uncooperative and did not want to press charges against each other.

BATTERY, 1000 BLOCK EL MONTE AVE., 7/29

A man was walking down El Monte Avenue when another man pedaled up on a grey bike, jumped off the bike and attacked him, hitting him repeatedly. The attacker then fled. The suspect is described as a white male in his 30s wearing black shorts and a gray T-shirt. He has not been located.

■ POLICE LOG

ASSAULT

1400 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/29

BATTERY

2200 Block Latham St., 7/23
200 Block Mariposa Ave., 7/23
1800 Block California St., 7/28
1000 Block El Monte Ave., 7/29
Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7/29
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/29

BURGLARY/AUTO

600 Block Rainbow Dr., 7/23
2400 Block Bayshore Parkway, 7/23
1900 Block Montecito Ave., 7/23
2600 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/23
600 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/23
1500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/23
2700 Block Garcia Ave., 7/24
600 Block W. Dana St., 7/24
700 Block Sylvan Ave., 7/24
400 Block Evandale Ave., 7/26

BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL

400 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/23
600 Block Ellis St., 7/26
400 Block San Antonio Rd., 7/26
300 Block Villa St., 7/27
Ross Store, 7/27

BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL

2500 Block Katrina Way, 7/25
2500 Block Westford Way, 7/25

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

W. El Camino Real/San Antonio Rd., 7/26
600 Block S. Rengstorff Ave., 7/27
600 Block Mariposa Ave., 7/28
W. Dana St./Hope St., 7/29
300 Block Escuela St., 7/29

DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

2600 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/29

EMBEZZLEMENT

500 Block Showers Dr., 7/24

GRANT THEFT

1300 Block Space Park Way, 7/23

MAKE/PASS FICTITIOUS

Bernardo Ave./El Camino Real, 7/26

MISSING PERSON - JUVENILE

700 Block Borello Way, 7/26

PETTY THEFT

600 Block Showers Dr., 7/23
2600 Block W. El Camino Real, 7/23
Target, 7/24
Century 16 Cinema, 7/25
2500 Block W. Middlefield Rd., 7/26
100 Block Sierra Vista Ave., 7/26
3300 Block Palo Alto Ave., 7/27
1300 Block Montecito Ave., 7/29
2000 Block California St., 7/29
1100 Block Miramonte Ave., 7/29

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/PERSON

1100 Block Wright Ave., 7/25
2500 Block Grant Rd., 7/26
2200 Block Showers Dr., 7/28

TRESPASSING

600 Block Showers Dr., 7/26

VANDALISM

600 Block Escuela Ave., 7/24
1900 Block Silverwood Ave., 7/24
1500 Block N. Shoreline Blvd., 7/27
Amphitheatre Parkway, 7/29

UNLAWFUL SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

1200 Block Evandale Ave., 7/27

Community Wellness Lecture Series

Presented by the Health Library & Resource Center — A PlaneTree Affiliate

Wednesday, August 15 ▶ 7–8 pm

Coronary Stents: Application and Controversy

Ramtin Agah, MD, El Camino
Hospital Cardiologist

El Camino Hospital, back of cafeteria,
2500 Grant Road, Mountain View

Wednesday, September 5 ▶ 7–8 pm

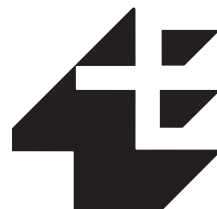
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Sari R. Levine, MD, El Camino
Hospital Urologist

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Back from Akron

By Don Frances

OUR FRIEND Joe Sparaco returned recently from the national Soap Box Derby competition in Akron, Ohio, and sent us a thorough and highly entertaining report on how our local racers fared.

As many readers know, Sparaco is a Mountain View cafe owner and Soap Box Derby enthusiast who organized a race last June on the Dana Street overpass in front of Landels Elementary School. Three winners from that competition went to Akron, and here's how they did, in Sparaco's words:

"Well we didn't win the derby, but our champions fit in real good with the 597 other kids from all around the country, and even put a scare into a couple of them. ...

"Celleste Greaves of Mountain View represented the Elks and Air Systems and her car sponsor, J&B Enterprises, in the Stock Division and raced twice, barely getting beat by a girl who made it into the semifinals near the end of the day. Her time was off because, as we later discovered, the car had sustained a bent rear axle, but it was not discovered in time to make the needed adjustments. She rode lane three like a pro, and drove her racer as near to the white line as she could get it to gain speed, which was exactly what she was supposed to do.

"Tom Nelson of San Jose rode in the Super Stock Division in his speedy purple and blue bomb Tru Color Concepts, paid for and sponsored by the Elks. Tom also took the inside line, also in lane three in his first two heats, and prevailed by inches to retire a couple of kids, one from Akron and one from I believe Michigan. ...

"Life was even better for Brandon Le, our Super Kid, who raced all day on Friday, and had he won

► See **EDITOR'S DESK**, page 9



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Lenny Siegel sits in his office on Hope Street in Mountain View. Siegel, a former Stanford radical, now helps to oversee the environmental cleanup of Moffett Field.

Mountain View's foremost lefty

SIXTIES RADICAL LENNY SIEGEL NOW A NATIONAL EXPERT ON TOXICS ISSUES

By Daniel DeBolt

Describing exactly what Lenny Siegel does can be complicated, because he does so many things. Lately, Siegel, 59, has been an outspoken watchdog of the cleanup of Mountain View's Superfund sites and an organizer against the Iraq

war — but those are just recent items on a long resume.

Siegel is known locally for his work on the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board, which oversees cleanup efforts on the former Navy site. But few know that Siegel invented the very idea of the restoration advisory board, which allows public over-

sight and participation in the toxic cleanup process of former military bases across the country. For that, Siegel has been called "Father RAB."

Siegel, who is married with children, has been a resident of downtown Mountain View

► See **SIEGEL**, page 12

■ NEWS BRIEFS

EL CAMINO FINDS NEW RADIOLOGY GROUPS

The El Camino Hospital Radiologists Group, Inc. has announced it is ending its contract with El Camino Hospital after 45 years.

Hospital spokesperson Judy Twitchell said the group had dwindled significantly in size and was no longer able to cover all of its hours. Several members of the group were also set to retire.

The radiologists group announced in April that it would be disbanding, and gave the hospital 90 days to find a replacement. Last month El Camino entered into new contracts with two radiology groups, the Central Valley Imaging Associates, which will provide radiology services, and the Interventional Radiology Coverage, Inc., which will provide

interventional radiology services.

— Alexa Tondreau

HOMES BURGLARIZED WHILE OCCUPANTS SLEPT

Mountain View police say one or more cat burglars broke into two homes last week, taking valuables and sneaking out while the occupants slept.

The back-to-back thefts occurred during the night of Wednesday, July 25, when someone entered the homes through unlocked windows or doors and made off with small personal belongings, including purses and wallets. The owners never awoke, and no descriptions of any suspects were provided.

The burglaries occurred on the

2500 block of Katrina Way and the adjacent 2500 block of Westford Way, just off Highway 85. The case is under investigation and the burglar or burglars remain at large. Police say the burglaries resemble a string of such incidents throughout the region in recent months.

The Mountain View Police Department urges community members to lock windows and doors. Residents are also encouraged to report any suspicious activity to police.

To learn more about crime prevention and home security, call the police department's Community Action and Information Unit at (650) 903-6707.

— Melody Dye

■ EDUCATION

Big plans at St. Francis

NEW LIBRARY, 400-SEAT ARTS CENTER ON DRAWING BOARD

By Alexa Tondreau

Much of the Saint Francis High School campus has remained in its original configuration since the school was founded in 1954. But that will soon change.

Last week, the school received approval from the city's zoning staff to move forward on a multi-million dollar campus improvement at 1885 Miramonte Ave.

Included in the plans is a new performing arts center, a two-story library building with a student union hall, and a remodeled gymnasium.

The main incentive for the campus facelift is that it is simply time to upgrade, said Kevin Makley, Saint Francis' administrative president. The school, with 1,495 students, wants to "add some things we haven't had before," he said.

Makley said the campus' current theater was built when the school was founded, and that its 100-seat capacity does not adequately accommodate the production size of the school's theater arts performances or the audience. Many practices and some performances are held in the school's cafeteria because of this.

"We really are in need of a new one," he said.

Makley said the new performing arts center will have room for theater productions, concerts and choir and band performances.

"To have a dedicated performing arts center — that's huge for us. It's an especially fun project because there is a lot of excitement generated through the performing arts here," Makley said.

The projected cost of the performing arts center is \$12 million to \$13 million, Makley said.

"We have to raise the money for every project that we do, and we pay as we go," Makley said. "But we're very optimistic."

Construction on the perform-

► See **ST. FRANCIS**, page 9

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■ SEEN AROUND TOWN

Dark rainy Saturday



The spring rainstorms seem a long way off, so here's a memento from William Murphy. Murphy, who lives in the Monta Loma neighborhood, took this photo around lunchtime in downtown Mountain View on a dark and rainy Saturday last April.

If you have a photo taken around town which you'd like published in the Voice, please send it (as a jpg attachment) to editor@mv-voice.com.

MVLA

► Continued from page 1

term of four years.

At the board meeting Monday night, trustees considered extending the application time period in the hopes that more candidates would apply. But after interviewing Mitchner, the trustees found him to be "personable," "easygoing" and knowledgeable about finance, and decided to appoint him.

A 16-year resident of Mountain View, graduate of Stanford University, and a Little League coach and board member for 22 years, Mitchner came highly recommended from several community members.

One such member, A. Brooke Seawell, a venture capitalist and fellow Little League parent, wrote in a letter of recommendation that "Joe possesses the skills of a strong

finance manager — inquisitive, probing and detail-oriented, with a sense for when macro versus micro analysis is most appropriate. Joe's fiscally conservative and responsible approach would be especially valuable in overseeing the fiscal affairs of a school district."

Another letter came from Ellen Wheeler, a trustee for the Mountain View Whisman School District. "I believe that he is intelligent, independent, honest, and vitally interested in providing quality education to the students in both of our school districts," she wrote.

Eventually board members came to share their view.

"We are thrilled to appoint Joe Mitchner to our board," said board of trustees president Susan Sweeley. "He has the perfect mix of school financial knowledge, experience with our Mountain View Whisman partner schools, and a desire

to focus on what is best for kids."

Mitchner last worked as the assistant athletic director for finance at Stanford University. Before that he worked as a financial manager at Oracle Corporation and at Hewlett-Packard. In the 1980s, he served on the Parks and Recreation Commission of Menlo Park.

He is a parent of one 11-year old son and two 8-year old twin daughters. His children attend Grant Middle School and Bubb Elementary School respectively.

"I'm a believer in public education and would like to help out as much as I can," he said.

Mitchner and his wife have taken the last couple of years off to spend more time with their kids. His official swearing-in ceremony will take place Aug. 13. ■

E-mail Susan Hong at shong@mv-voice.com

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BIODIESEL

► Continued from page 1

B100, is more difficult because it is considered an experimental fuel by the state and sellers must apply for a variance. But with B20, sellers do not have to jump through hoops, and users do not have to sign a waiver acknowledging the risks of using it.

The risk from biodiesel is usually with older cars where rubber gaskets, seals and fuel lines can be damaged by the fuel, and fuel filters can get clogged by the dirt which biodiesel tends to pick

up from older fuel tanks. But to dedicated biodiesel users these problems are easily fixed, and a small price to pay for the decrease in tailpipe emissions.

With B20, those problems are much less likely.

"Most engine manufacturers are OK with a B20 blend, so that's the blend we're using," Robinson said. We still tell people that they have to check with the manufacturer."

Mercedes is the most conservative, telling its customers to use only a 5 percent blend.

Robinson said his company is subsidizing its biodiesel temporarily, selling it for the same price as

regular diesel — \$3.15 a gallon.

"What we wanted to do was test the water and find out, 'If a customer had the option, and price was not a consideration, what would they buy?' So we're subsidizing the biodiesel just to see how it works," Robinson said.

As to the company's motivations, Robinson mentioned the growing interest in alternative fuels. "The folks that want it, really want it," he said.

More and more biodiesel stations have popped up lately, and one of the more noticeable is the Pacific Biofuel station on Ocean Avenue in Santa Cruz. Robinson

Bali beckons for local student

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL GRAD TEACHES
ACTIVISM, LEADERSHIP IN ISLAND PROVINCE

By Alexa Tondreau

Ryan Feinstein, born and raised in Mountain View and a graduate of Mountain View High School, is spending this summer far from home: on the Southeast Asian island of Bali, where he is pursuing his vision for social activism and youth leadership on an international scale.

Feinstein, now a junior at UC San Diego and an international studies major, is visiting the island, a province of Indonesia, for the seventh time in three years as part of his involvement with the Bali Institute for Global Renewal, where he began as an assistant in his freshman summer.

The institute, located in the city of Ubud, is a learning center that offers an array of programs that teach individuals, groups and organizations how to be effective leaders.

This summer Feinstein has ramped up his involvement, and now he serves as founder and director of the institute's Global Youth in Action Program. His commitment and passion won Feinstein the position, and he is currently the youngest organizer on staff.

This week Feinstein is in the midst of welcoming delegates from around the world to a week-long conference he helped to coordinate, titled "Awakening Global Action — Leadership, Indigenous Wisdom and Dialogue for a Transforming World."

The seven-day conference is designed to offer presentations, workshops and leadership training to participants who want to have an impact on their community. Feinstein has worked to bring as many young people to the program as possible.

Feinstein attended the institute's first conference and said he was concerned that only 10 young peo-

ple out of 500 adults were present. The experience inspired him to try to motivate other students to attend.

"Young people need to start understanding their role in the world and to stand up and act on their beliefs and frustrations starting now," Feinstein stated in an e-mail. "Young people in their 20s are going to be running many of the corporations, NGOs and countries in the near future, and we need to know how to live in the world in a different way than we currently are."

Feinstein said the differences in lifestyle and culture between a developing place like Bali and, say, Mountain View or San Diego are vast. He said the experience of living and working in Bali has had a deep impact on him.

"Much of my way of thinking has come from spending time in less industrialized areas of the world and really trying to understand cultures totally different from my own," he said.

Feinstein, who will graduate in spring 2008, said he doesn't know exactly what his post-graduate plans are, but he is sure he wants to continue working on the empowerment of youth in some way.

He said he is interested in attending graduate school because he wants to create a new leadership curriculum for universities that would encourage students to get involved in global affairs.

"I am doing this work because I truly believe we are at the cutting edge of leadership development and are creating a new generation of leaders of all ages," he wrote.

For more information on the Bali Institute for Global Renewal, visit www.baliinstitute.org.

E-mail Alexa Tondreau at atondreau@mv-voice.com

said he happened to know the owner there, and that the station may not be a moneymaker in itself but serves to advertise the company's biodiesel distribution operation.


Many biodiesel customers operate truck fleets, and take delivery of biodiesel in large stationary tanks — which is what the city of Mountain View plans to do soon for its diesel equipment.

When asked why Mountain View was chosen for a pump, Robinson said the company looked at its stations that sold kerosene — since it would be an easy switch when kerosene isn't

used for heating homes in the summer months. Along with two other stations in San Jose, Robinson said, the company is able to cover most of the Valley. However, the four biodiesel pumps the company has in Sonoma have had a bigger draw.

"I think we will definitely continue with it," Robinson said. "I don't think we want to get out of the [biodiesel] business. But whether we keep it at a particular location, I don't know." ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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"Nutrition for a Healthy Heart"

Monday, August 27, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Susan Zipin, R.D., CDE, PAMF Nutrition Services

Join us for a discussion of menu selection and food choices with a focus on measuring sodium intake and daily food requirements. This lecture is also appropriate for anyone with high blood pressure.

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to (650) 853-4873.

"Prostate Cancer: The Patient Experience"

Thursday, August 30, 7 – 9 p.m.

PAMF Panelists

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Classes

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"Learning About Heart Failure," Friday, August 17, 2 – 3:30 p.m.

A class taught by a Cardiology nurse practitioner. Topics include medications used in treatment, dietary requirements, weight monitoring, self-care, activity guidelines, and symptom recognition and reporting.

"Cholesterol and Your Heart," Tuesdays, August 21 & 28, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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United on the soccer field

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH STUDENT JOINS FORCES WITH PAL, OTHER GROUPS TO HELP AT-RISK KIDS

By Melody Dye

As recently reported in the *Voice*, "Kick, Lead and Dream," a two-week afternoon soccer camp designed to help local at-risk youth, was pronounced a success when it concluded late last month.

What wasn't mentioned is that the camp, which brought young soccer players onto the field with varsity players from Mountain View High School — and into the classroom with local police officers, motivational speakers and youth counselors — was the brainchild of a particularly civic-minded Mountain View High sophomore.

Akash Nigam invented the camp as a way to engage youngsters in a variety of soccer drills and games aimed at fostering a competitive atmosphere while instilling the kids with the importance of teamwork, leadership and integrity. The campers, all fifth to eighth graders from underprivileged Mountain View families, were mentored and coached by their high school partners, who served as positive role models for the pre-teens.

The camp singled out youths

who might otherwise be drawn into gang violence and crime, organizers said, keeping them on the field and off the streets. Nigam, a local soccer standout and competitor in the district Olympic Development League, worked in collaboration with the Mountain View Police Activities League (PAL), the Mountain View Los Altos Soccer Club, and Mesa de la Comunidad.

PAL, which seeks to further friendship and understanding between police and at-risk youth, served as an umbrella organization for the camp, incorporating it into its "Dreams and Futures" program. The organization was instrumental in securing playing fields and identifying children who might benefit from the program.

With the backing of these groups and help from some friends, Nigam recruited notable guest speakers, including Officer Fernando Maldonado of the Mountain View Police Department; coach Carlos Schulze, a former member of the Chilean soccer team; and David Murillo, the former captain of the Mission College soccer team. Mayor Laura Macias and Police Chief

Scott Vermeer spoke at the closing ceremonies.

Nigam said it wasn't difficult to recruit speakers or to find sponsorship. "It's for a good cause and everyone wants to be a part of that," he said.

Nigam said he's attended quite a few soccer camps, and thought this would be a great way to reach out to underprivileged kids in the local community. "The kids we got were all classified as 'at-risk,'" he said. "A lot of these kids have been arrested already. ... Their parents aren't usually at home, so they're living on their own, getting involved with gangs. That's a tough environment to be in."

Nigam ran the camp with fellow high schoolers Robby Gamble, Jordan Coff, Tom Canty and Ashley Crist. The teens worked full days, setting up goal lines in the morning, running the camp in the afternoon, and cleaning up in the evenings. Despite the long hours, the teens found their work rewarding.

"I think our expectations going in were just blown away," Nigam said. "I definitely want to do it again next year. Next year we're going to do a little more planning and expand it, add more coaches into the mix, and hopefully get an overall better camp." ■

E-mail Melody Dye at mdye@mv-voice.com

ST. FRANCIS

► Continued from page 5

ing arts center is slated to break ground in the spring of 2008, and should last roughly 11 months, in time for the annual spring musical in 2009, he said.

The performing arts center is the first of several phases of campus development that the school would like to see happen. After the completion of the center in

2009, the school will begin on a two-story library building, with a student union located on the first floor.

Makley said it will be the first time in the school's history that there will be a student union hall.

Refurbishing the existing gymnasium would take place some time after that, Makley said.

Stephanie Williams, the city's project planner who is working with Saint Francis on the development, said many schools across the

Peninsula have begun to see the need to update existing structures.

"Definitely a lot of schools in this area were built when the area was first developing," she said. "There's a desire to improve them to meet today's needs."

Williams said Saint Francis will need to work its way through the building permit process, and the city will conduct an on-site parking study before the spring 2008 groundbreaking. ■

EDITOR'S DESK

► Continued from page 5

his last heat on Friday would have advanced to the Saturday challenge with the top six racers of Friday's activities. Brandon seemed to be the crowd favorite, and everyone fully expected him to advance and seemed both disappointed and surprised when he got beat in his 15th heat. The Elks Central District car seemed to be one of the fastest Super Kid cars on the track that Friday."

By the way, Greaves and Nelson are 11 and 13, respectively, and Le is 8.

And there you have it, except for one more detail which I can't leave out: "And finally, Celeste's mom Cynthia raced in the 'Oil Can' race and got wiped out by a couple of derby directors who weighed twice what she did."

I'm betting Cynthia doesn't mind losing, so long as she doesn't have to double her own weight.

AND THIS IS the sad part, when I have to announce that one of our fine staff writers is leaving for greener pastures.

Over the past year, Alexa Tondreau has done a wonderful job with her beat (which focuses on

health and education issues in Mountain View), and has been a great stabilizing force in the newsroom as well. As of next week, she's moving on to our sister paper, the *Palo Alto Weekly*, to cover that city's (arguably more contentious) education issues.

The upshot is that we've hired an enormously talented and qualified replacement, Susan Hong. We are sad to see one go, and welcome the other.

And, with any luck, we'll still be picking up Alexa's stories now and again.

Don Frances can be reached at dfrances@mv-voice.com.

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Ernie was a carpet installer, and years of lifting and working bent-over had taken their toll. His MRI's revealed massive disc and joint degeneration. The surgeons he consulted were not optimistic about the outcome of surgery, given the extent of damage to the discs of L4 and L5 that had protruded and were pressing against the nerves causing his pain.

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TREES

► Continued from page 1

make sure it isn't just an owner annoyed with a messy tree. The tree must be in poor health, pose a threat to safety or stand in the way of reasonable construction plans on the property.

With the price of property skyrocketing lately, Hurlburt said, the city doesn't like to tell property owners that they can't cut down a tree to make their home larger and more livable. But owners often find it's possible to build around one.

When Carrie Holmberg and her husband bought their Waverly Park home a year and half ago, the last thing they wanted was a massive Monterey pine to fall on their home. But as time went on, the large tree — one of the largest on Franklin Avenue — leaned over the house and looked more and more ominous to Holmberg as she played with her kids in the backyard.

Holmberg wondered out loud if she was "crazy" to think the tree was a threat. Arborists were of little comfort: They said the tree was at the end of its lifespan and that if a large branch was removed, which they recommended, it would only be a mat-



KELLEY COX

This heritage tree on Carmelita Drive is being closely watched by neighbors.

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ter time before the whole tree died.

Nevertheless, neighbors gave her dirty looks after the tree was removed a few months ago, she said. Some neighbors, however, were supportive.

"For someone who is pro-tree, it really tore me up to make that decision," Holmberg said.

Holmberg's Monterey pine was one of many planted throughout the city in the 1950s and 1960s that are now close to the end of their lifespan. In Cuesta Park alone a dozen of them have had to be cut down in the last few years, Hurlburt said. Once they get old or weakened by trimming, the pines are often hit with a fungal disease or the red turpentine beetle.

"We are experiencing a loss of Monterey pines," Hurlburt said. "There are certain species that are definitely in trouble and Monterey pine is one of the species."

Council member Ronit Bryant said her Old Mountain View neighborhood has seen

the loss of many camphor trees over the last few decades. In Monta Loma, plum trees have been replaced with Chinese pistachios. When planting street trees, the city works off a list of preferred trees that is over 20 years old, Hurlburt said.

Crimaldi said the Carmelita neighborhood is "falling through the cracks" in terms of trees because it is one of the areas of the city without a parking strip between the sidewalk and the curb — which is where the city maintains and plants street trees.

Every time a heritage tree is cut down, Hurlburt said, owners are on the "honor system" when it comes to planting the required replacement box trees. The city often can't police whether new trees go in because "we don't have a large staff," Hurlburt said, so the city relies on neighbors to keep an eye out.

The city is busy planting about

"Every time a heritage tree is cut down, owners are on the 'honor system' when it comes to planting the required replacement box trees."

BRUCE HURLBURT

► Continued on next page

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260 trees a year and maintaining 28,000 trees on parking strips, street medians and in parks. Last year the city planted 255 trees, and there's room to plant thousands more, Hurlburt said. The city employs seven people to maintain the trees.

"We obviously need to re-plant trees on a constant basis," said Bryant. "As wonderful old trees reach the end of their life new trees are there to take over."

Last year the San Jose City Council wrestled with the problem of illegal tree removals, eventually raising fines for the practice. In Mountain View, the fines are handed out on a case-by-case basis and are based on formulas published by the International Society of Arboriculture, which determine the value of a tree.

■ HERITAGE TREES		
In the ongoing search for Mountain View's largest trees, a local group has identified the following biggies:		
SPECIES	CIRCUMFERENCE	LOCATION
California Bay Laurel	394"	Athletic field at Saint Francis High School
Pine	305"	578 Oak Street
California Pepper	244"	571 Sullivan Drive
Oak	180"	1667 Miramonte Avenue
Redwood	201"	1600 Begen Avenue
Eucalyptus	176"	Centre and Montgomery streets
Cedar Deodara	170"	Chapel at Saint Francis High School
Black Walnut	158"	Centre and Montgomery streets

Source: www.mountainviewtrees.org

It's rare, but occasionally the city learns about illegally removed trees from neighbors. Last year, one unnamed com-

mercial property owner cut down several redwoods and faced an \$18,000 fine, Hurlburt said. ▣

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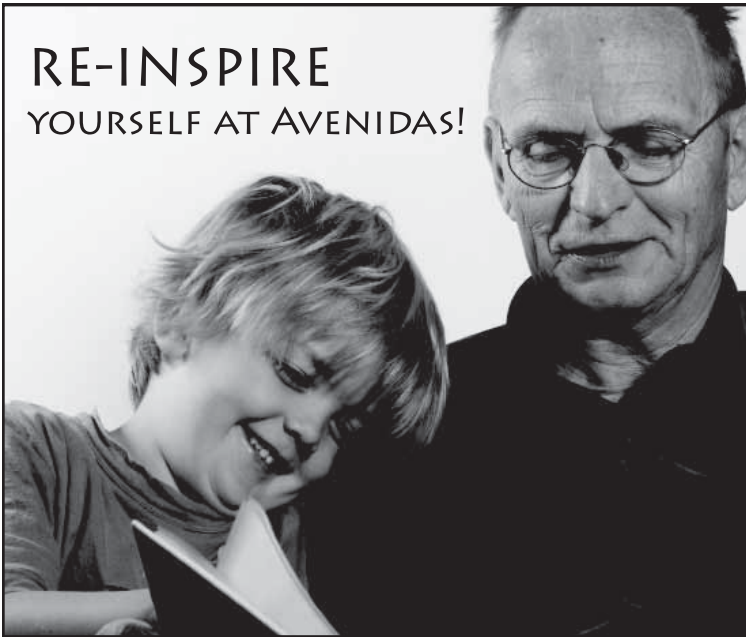
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SIEGEL

► Continued from page 5

since the early 1970s. Before that he was a Stanford student during the Vietnam War, and a member of Students for a Democratic Society, the national radical student group, where he wrote extensively about the links between the university and the military. Since then, three themes have dominated his work: the military, toxics and technology.

In the late 1970s, Siegel said, he was one of the first people to point out that computer chip manufacturing could spell environmental disaster for Silicon Valley. He helped organize a conference in 1977 called "Silicon Valley, Paradise or Paradox," and wrote a pamphlet with the same name. When toxic leaks were discovered at local IBM and Fairchild facilities in 1981, Siegel worked with the Mountain View City Council to get them listed as federal Superfund sites. He also helped form the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. In 1985 he wrote a book on the subject called "The High Cost of High Tech" with co-author John Markoff, a *New York Times* reporter.

In the late 1980s, Siegel's focus shifted to Moffett Field. In 1991, the same year the site was closed as a naval base, Siegel and others traveled to an Environmental Protection Agency meeting in Colorado where he helped "introduce the idea of community involvement" in military base cleanups. Soon after, the Moffett Field Restoration Advisory Board formed, and had its first victory when the Navy responded to requests that it accelerate the cleanup process.

Siegel leaked the news to the press, making sure the Navy got the credit it deserved.

"A lot of [Navy officials] were shocked," he said. "It went a long way."

Because of these successes, Siegel was motivated to do many things "I never would have done in the 1960s," he said. In 1994 he became president of Career/Pro in San Francisco, an organization that trained inner city youth to help with cleanups at military bases.

As he routinely travels the country giving workshops on how to run restoration advisory boards, Siegel said he has become "an honest broker" between local communities and the military, and he believes that his experience as an activist gives him "credibility" among civilians. He often does research

at the request of citizen groups located near military bases—most recently in Hawaii, where military officials welcomed him after learning of his reputation.

Siegel is also busy as one of the few activists with expertise on "brownfields," which he calls "the civilian version of base closures." Local brownfields include the MEW Superfund site in Mountain View (bordered by Middlefield Road, Ellis Avenue and Whisman Road), where soil and groundwater have become polluted by industry and toxic vapors. If not controlled, the vapors can emanate into homes and workplaces.

While a student at Stanford, Siegel said, he was profoundly influenced by the idea of "participatory democracy." That belief has evolved for Siegel, and today he believes that restoration advisory boards, while not participatory democracies, have provided a model for how best to deal with technically complicated

would not go to Palo Alto or San Francisco. In 2003, the group was re-formed to oppose the current war in Iraq.

Siegel's office on Hope Street is the closest thing Mountain View has to a peace center. The two-room office is the home of the Pacific Studies Center, an umbrella organization for Mountain View Voices for Peace and Siegel's organization, the Center for Public Environmental Oversight. Around the conference room are signs from past battles, such as one reading "Symposium for a new Moffett Field"—a sign from the days when Siegel advocated for the "closure and conversion" of Moffett Field, opposing what many Navy officials wanted for the base.

But these days Siegel finds himself working with the very Navy officials he once opposed—like Carl Honaker, the former chief officer at Moffett Field—

in an effort to save the historic Hangar One, whose toxic siding is leaching contaminants into the groundwater. In 2004, following outcry over the fate of Hangar One, Siegel contributed his organizing experience to help form the Save Hangar One Committee.



NORBERT VON DER GROEBEN

Lenny Siegel works at his Hope Street office.

cleanup efforts while keeping the public in the loop. Even though the military and the EPA make final decisions, the public's comments can help direct the Navy's efforts and have led to much better outcomes, Siegel said.

As a man who admits he likes to argue ("it's the highest form of learning," he says), Siegel's work has put him in a unique position to promote his anti-war beliefs with military officials. He said he's come to learn that a surprising number of military officials oppose the Iraq war and think President George W. Bush and his administration are ruining the military.

But he equally enjoys sparring with military personnel who believe that leaving Iraq would cause chaos in the region. Siegel argues that lasting progress in the region cannot be tied to a U.S. occupation. He also talks about the lessons of the Vietnam War that still apply today.

In this vein, Siegel helped form Mountain View Voices for Peace during the first Gulf War. Hundreds of people showed up for the first demonstration, confirming his "hypothesis," he said, that huge numbers of people would show up for a protest on the corner of Castro Street and El Camino Real, but

Siegel once tried a stint in politics, running for City Council in 1976. He wasn't elected because, as a newcomer to the city, he hadn't gained enough support, he said. But the effort wasn't a flash in the pan: He helped pass the city's condominium conversion ordinance in 1979, pushed unsuccessfully for a modified rent control ordinance in 1980, and served on the city's environmental planning commission in the early 1980s.

While many activists burn out after a few years, Siegel says he still finds it rewarding to give people that little bit of guidance necessary to "push them over the top" in making their voices heard, whether it be on toxic pollution or saving Hangar One. While many environmentalists these days are setting their sights on global warming, Siegel's efforts show no sign of losing focus—last week, between plane flights out of town, he was pitching a new strategy to RAB members to gain more public support for restoring Hangar One. ■

E-mail Daniel DeBolt at ddebolt@mv-voice.com

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

A patient's battle for care

The recent *Voice* story of 43-year-old Jimmy Campbell's five-year-plus battle to remain at El Camino Hospital despite efforts to move him to a nursing home points up the flaws in the state's ability to take charge of such long-term patients and get them the care they need.

As stated in last week's story, Campbell suffers from a degenerative neurological disease called spinocerebellar atrophy, which has left him almost entirely paralyzed, unable to swallow and in need of round-the-clock nursing care. His brain, however, is perfectly functional, making him a prisoner in his own body.

Campbell's physician, Dr. Ron Hoffman, put it this way: "This person cannot fend for himself. He needs tube-feeding, suctioning and someone to attend to his basic needs. Left unattended, he would have died."

Dr. Hoffman says that, contrary to the hospital's wishes, he steadfastly refused to discharge Campbell from El Camino until he was assured his patient would be moved to a location that could manage his needs. Due to a technicality, the state's Medi-Cal program would not cover the estimated \$250,000 annual cost of Campbell's care at home, a responsibility left to the hospital unless Campbell was discharged.

After five and a half years, Campbell's parents finally found the help they needed in Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, who earlier this year pushed through a bill that enables Medi-Cal to pay for his treatment at home.

Lieber deserves accolades for solving what seemed to be an intractable problem — providing a way to fund expensive long-term care at home for a patient stuck in a short-term care hospital bed. In contrast, the hospital cannot be proud of its efforts to push Campbell out to a nursing home despite his fragile condition. During the first two years of his hospital stay, his family asked hospital CEO Lee Domanico for a grant to bring their son home. Instead, the hospital offered a one-time grant of \$30,000, which the family rejected.

Dr. Hoffman told the *Voice* he believed the hospital could have done much more to pressure Medi-Cal and other state agencies to help with Campbell's home care. He added that he believes the hospital has a mandate to provide charitable care in some circumstances.

"It has to be remembered that [El Camino] is a tax-funded hospital," he said. "They do not exist unequivocally to make a profit in every instance."

For Campbell, and about 300 other patients in similar circumstances, Lieber's bill has been a godsend. It proves that government can be responsive to extraordinary human need in the bleakest of circumstances.

Nevertheless, Campbell's case points out that chronically-ill patients who lack full insurance coverage could be at risk of being discharged against their will. Some version of this nightmare exists for countless thousands of state residents, who lack proper insurance or whose ailments fall through the cracks of Medi-Cal.

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

THANKS TO BOOKS INC. ON POTTER EVENT

Editor:

Thank you so much for your coverage of the Books Inc. Harry Potter event (July 27). We at the Mountain View Educational Foundation (MVEF) are so grateful for the support of Books Inc. The staff put on great activities, taking final hurried pre-orders, and still cheerfully finding the books that the kids were looking for in the children's section.

It was also good to see so many parents out with their kids. Of course, for some of us, a Friday night on the town often includes a stop at Books Inc., where we always see one or two friends. It's a pleasure to shop among and buy from our fellow book nuts, and I'm happy to live in a town where books are so treasured. We also enjoy the readings, lectures and other events.

On top of all that, the 20 percent donation from Books Inc., on sales of 518 copies of Harry Potter, brought in \$3,729.94 for MVEF. So, thanks to Books Inc. and thanks to all of you who were there, spending time with your kids, reading with them, and supporting our schools at the same time.

Terry Higgins
MVEF

TRANSIT RIDERS BETRAYED AGAIN

Editor:

First, the Democrats joined up with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to sell us on "infrastructure" (cough ... highway ... cough) bonds, an investment in a smoggy, debt-laden future for the next generation of Californians.

Now, in the midst of budget wranglings, they are preparing to give up \$1.3 billion in operating funds for public transit, after

months of assurances that this gas-tax revenue was safe.

Being "theoretically" in favor of public transit doesn't do us riders any good. So that's it. I'm not voting for any of you guys until you actually earn it. What good does it do me if the people I vote for win, and do nothing for me?

I can't be quite as mad at the Governor, because I didn't vote for him. But he better stop calling himself an environmentalist!

Nicholas Kibre
San Carlos Avenue

BIKES A PROBLEM AT SHORELINE

Editor:

We are so fortunate to have Shoreline Park as a resource for a variety of activities. I love to walk on the trails, get some exercise and enjoy the natural beauty of the Baylands.

However, I'm very concerned about the bike traffic. Bikers bear down on walkers and shout "on your left" when they're practically upon us. It's disconcerting — and scary!

I know there are "rules of the road," but what are they? They are clearly communicated on Stevens Creek Trail, but not at Shoreline. Moreover, at Stevens Creek there is a meridian to separate bikers and walkers. No such designation exists at Shoreline. And, there are no speed limits posted for bikers who think they're on the Tour de France.

Since the trails are heavily used by many people — parents with toddlers, seniors and even disabled people — I think it is only a matter of time until a serious accident occurs. I hope that the city and park officials can find a way to solve this problem.

Ellen Murray
San Luis Avenue



■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

■ MOVIE TIMES

■ BEST BETS FOR ENTERTAINMENT



KELLEY COX

Clarke's Charcoal Broiler burger is served relatively plain, allowing customers to add their own condiments.

■ RESTAURANT REVIEW

Clarke's marks the spot

CLASSIC BURGER SHACK
A MOUNTAIN VIEW FAVORITE SINCE 1945

By Sheila Himmel

A knowledgeable friend claims that Clarke's Charcoal Broiler burgers are the best in Silicon Valley. She and other fans have been patronizing Clarke's for so many decades that just driving up to the jaunty, nautical pier-like front makes them happy.

Clarke's loyal clientele ranges from soldiers in fatigues to young families with children, from the weekday lunch crowd to folks who remember when William Clarke came back from World War II and put up a hamburger stand on El Camino Real. (It's been in the Blach family for 35

years.) Incoming cars go from beat-up Corolla to shiny Jaguar convertible. Few people linger.

Most of them know what they want, or study the multifaceted burger options and add-ons before getting in line. It would be rude to get to the front and say, "Hmm, do I want a Smokey Cheddar Burger or just a Sharp Cheddar Burger, and do I want it on a French roll or the usual sesame bun? Oh, and add bacon, no, wait, Canadian bacon!"

Meanwhile, the soldier in back is turning red as a beet.

My favorite is the basic Clarkes-burger (\$5.95), a lean one-third-

► Continued on next page

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Larry Crane with son Noah, 2, and nephews Josh, 11 and Mitchell, 7, are ready to eat at Clarke's.

► Continued from previous page

pound patty that comes off the chain-mail charcoal broiler smoky, juicy and slightly crumbly, without those burned lines that look nice but taste, you know, burned. The burger makes a perfect textural contrast with a slightly toasted sesame bun, somewhat juicy tomato slices, and crisp sheaf of iceberg lettuce.

Medium, with just a hint of pink, is the default mode for all 21 or so versions of hamburger. If you want your burger cooked more or less, just say so.

If you want to use the restroom, ask for the key, and if you want, say, jack cheese instead of Ameri-

can cheese on your patty melt, add \$1. Otherwise, the patty melt (\$7.75) has the virtues of a one-third pound Clarkesburger, sauteed onions and toasted rye bread, but they're foiled by a slab of orange gunk.

Condiments reside on the original building's brick fireplace, behind the ordering counter. Traffic tends to back up, but the condiment station is clean and stocked with "imported and domestic" possibilities including iceberg lettuce, jalapeno peppers, sauerkraut and a flotilla of sauces, onions and mustards.

At lunchtime, you're likely to wait a lot longer for the burger

► See **CLARKE'S**, page 16

■ DINING NOTES

Clarke's Charcoal Broiler

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A large cartoon at the front entrance greets Clarke's customers.



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<p>ORGANIC LOCAL GREEN BEANS TENDER BLUE LAKE \$1.49 LB.</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL STRAWBERRIES RIPE AND SWEET 2 BSK \$6.00 FOR</p>	<p>ORGANIC LOCAL RASPBERRIES RIPE AND SWEET 2 BSK \$5.00 FOR</p>

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<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">afghan</p> <p>Afghan/Persian Kabobs 604 S. Mary Avenue (at El Camino Real) Sunnyvale 408/733-5262 Charbroiled Kabob Lunch Special \$7.95 www.pakabob.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">chinese</p> <p>Chef Chu's 1067 N. San Antonio Road, on the corner of El Camino, Los Altos. 650/948-2696 Zagat Review: "Gold Standard in Fresh Chinese Cuisine."</p> <p>New Tung Kee Noodle House 520 Showers Drive, Mtn. View. 650/947-8888 (Inside San Antonio Center) Voted Best Noodle House in 2003/2004 Mountain View Voice.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">mexican</p> <p>Fiesta Del Mar Too Rotisserie & Cantina 735 Villa St., Mtn. View 650/967-3525 Fresh Lime Margaritas, 200+ Tequilas, Open Late.</p> <p>La Fiesta Restaurant 240 Villa St., Mtn. View 650/968-1364 The best Mole Poblano and Margaritas in town.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">american</p> <p>Clarke's Charcoal Broiler 615 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View. 650/967-0851 Voted Best Hamburger 14 Yrs in a Row. Beautiful Outside Patio Dining.</p> <p>Hobee's Restaurants 2312 Central Expwy. Mtn. View. 650/968-6050 Voted Best Breakfast/Brunch 9 years in a row!</p> <p>Marie Callendar's 4710 El Camino Real (just south of San Antonio) 650/941-6989</p> <p>Sports Page 1431 Plymouth Street (exit at Shoreline off 101) Mtn. View. 650/961-1992</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">french</p> <p>Chez TJ 938 Villa Street, Mtn. View. 650/964-7466 "Outrageously good" New French-American fare "in a charming little Victorian house" - Zagat 2003.</p> <p>Le Petit Bistro 1405 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View. 650/964-3321 Casual and cozy French restaurant. 15 tables.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">pizza</p> <p>Kapp's Pizza Bar & Grill 191 Castro Street Mtn. View, 650/961-1491 Happy Hours Mon-Fri 4pm-6pm.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">mexican</p> <p>Fiesta Del Mar- Seafood, Mexican Cuisine & Cantina 1005 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mtn. View. 650/965-9354 Open Daily, Lunch & Dinner. Voted Best Seafood for 7 years.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">tex-mex</p> <p>El Paso Cafe 1407 El Camino Real, Mtn. View. 650/961-8858 Fax: 650/961-3439 (Between Rengstorff and Shoreline)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">ice cream</p> <p>Gelato Classico 241 B Castro Street Mtn. View. 650/969-2900</p>



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CLARKE'S

► Continued from page 15

— at least 10 minutes — than it takes to eat it. But lunch is still the time to go if you like your fries steaming hot with crisp coats. At slow times, the fries may go limp.

Medium-thick, with a little skin, the fries (\$1.50) were winners at lunch and losers at dinner. Also disappointing, potato salad and sweet coleslaw (\$2.25 each in a half-pint) both drowned in mayonnaise.

A big basket of fried zucchini (\$3.95) with ranch dressing was good for sharing. Clarke's fryer also does onion rings and beer-battered mushrooms.

For lighter eaters, Clarke's offers cheese sandwiches, smaller burgers and hot dogs. For vegetarians, there's a garden

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“Clarke'sburgers are charcoal broiled, not grilled.”

burger. On weekends, Clarke's breakfast menu hits all the egg and pancake bases. Clarke's full dinners include a roll, baked or fried potatoes and your choice of salad. The chicken and ribs are OK.

Why bother? Just have a burger and a milkshake or a beer. Clarke's carries good domestics and imports in bottles and Gordon Biersch on tap.

Atop the condiment station, and the centerpiece of Clarke's Web site, is a red vintage pickup truck with a thought bubble saying: “Clarke'sburgers are charcoal broiled, not grilled.” That's all, folks. ▣

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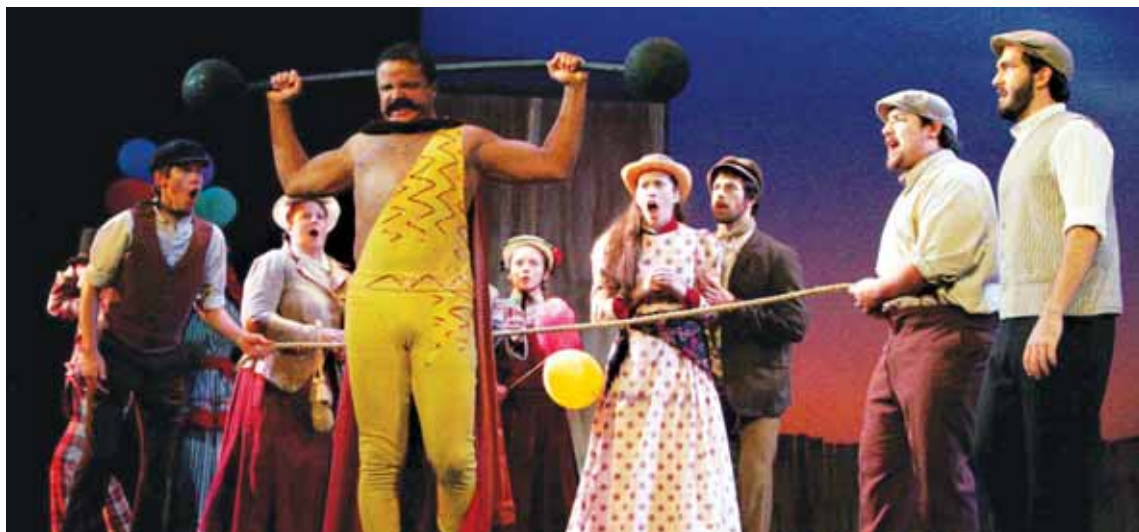
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KELLEY COX

Clarke's employees work hard on orders with the menu offering 21 different types of burgers.



Round and round she goes

ZANY GAGS, RAUCOUS MUSICAL NUMBERS ABIDE IN FOOHILL'S 'CAROUSEL'

By Melody Dye

The Foothill Music Theatre production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1940s classic "Carousel" is a high-powered affair that may fall a little short of its Broadway ambitions — but who needs Broadway when a local troupe is having so much fun.

"Carousel" is a glitzy, eye-catching bit of fancy, as colorful in its costumes and revolving sets as in its boisterous musical numbers. A small orchestra lines the pit as 15-foot sets glide silently across the stage, with carnival horses tracing the arc of the carousel. The band keeps time with the actors, who swoop in from the wings in fits of song — jiggling, stomping, carousing — as a strong man flexes in a lemon-colored jumpsuit and a brown bear does handstands in the corner.

Brilliant facades flicker, spotlights descend, and a little ballerina swirls across the stage, burlesque dancers at her back.

As always with Rodgers and Hammerstein, the fun is in the spectacle. And Foothill's version is at its best during the raucous song-and-dance numbers, when supporting players swarm the stage and the orchestra revs up its sound. The songs are full-bodied and pitch-perfect, the dances lavish and thrilling, executed with polish, flair and plenty of humor. (The sailors' jig was a particular crowd favorite, drawing whoops and applause mid-scene.)

In these extravagant moments, "Carousel" certainly rises to the occasion. It's in the more delicate dramatic scenes that things get a little messy.

This is in part because the story driving "Carousel" is a strange one. It's demanding in its complexity, peculiar in its subtleties. As the story goes, a young woman from a garment factory (Mary Melnick) falls for a womanizing carousel barker (Carmichael Blankenship),

and he for her. They wed. His sweet whispers turn to violence and abuse. But her love is unrelenting.

Then she finds herself pregnant, and though things go well at first, the barker becomes disoriented by the weight of fatherhood. Worried and befuddled, he is easily misled, and tragedy ensues: To secure the future of his unborn child, he gets caught up in on a plot to kill a man, but the deal goes sour and he kills himself instead.

His widowed wife teaches their young daughter that such men are worth forgiving, such abuses worth forgetting. Her forgiveness is supposed to be its own kind of redemption.

In the song, "What's the Use of Wondr'in," she sings to the women gathered round, "Something made him the way that he is, whether he's false or true / and something gave him the things that are his, one of those things is you. / So when he wants your kisses, you will give them to the lad. / And anytime he needs you, you'll go running there like mad."

In another scene she tells her dead husband that she knows why he hit her. In yet another, she tells her young daughter that sometimes being hit "doesn't hurt at all."

Such lines no doubt sound different to modern ears than in 1945, when "Carousel" first hit Broad-

way. Played the right way, maybe, the musical could be a complex moral tale about love and acceptance. Stripped of its subtleties, it can seem bizarre at best, misogynist at worst.

The biggest hitch in this production is one of casting. There isn't a full-blooded chemistry between Blankenship, a broad-shouldered baritone, and Melnick, whose reedy soprano is poorly matched with his overpowering vocals. Their apparent passion is sometimes more confusing than convincing.

Blankenship, as carnival barker Billy Bigelow, is handsome and charismatic. When he sings, his voice fills the room, and he has a certain physical presence that can overwhelm his colleagues. He plays his character impetuous and a little dumb; the emotional tenor of his performance is strong but never varies.

Mary Melnick, as factory girl Julie Jordan, is quite the opposite: thin, mousy and contemplative. She shoots for subtlety while he shoots for gusto.

Both turn in strong performances; it's the contrast that's problematic. Because their love is never believable, her forgiveness is almost unfathomable. The story is supposed to be one of love and redemption, but the mismatch reshapes the message into something more sinister.

But the play is successful in so many other ways. Katie Blodgett and Ruth Stein turn in exceptional vocal performances, and Hank Lawson is hilarious and unnerving in the role of Jigger Craigin. Hair, make-up, costume, set design, choreography, sound production — all are outright spectacular.

"Carousel" is a strange musical, and may not be all that it aspires to. But taken with a grain of salt, it's a bang-up good time.

E-mail Melody Dye at mdye@mv-voice.com

■ INFORMATION

What: Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel," produced by Foothill Music Theatre

Where: Smithwick Theatre at Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Rd., Los Altos Hills; free parking is available in lots 1, 5, and 6

When: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., through Aug. 19

Cost: \$24 general, \$22 seniors, \$18 students, \$10 children under 12

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Weekend

MOVIE TIMES

1408 (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 10:05 p.m.

ARCTIC TALE (G) (Not Reviewed) Aquarius: 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 & 9:30 p.m.

BECOMING JANE (PG) (Not Reviewed)
Palo Alto Square: 1:45, 4:30, 7:20 & 10:15 p.m.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 11 a.m.; 12:20, 1:50, 3:25, 4:35, 6:30, 7:30, 9:25 & 10:20 p.m.
Century 20: 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 2:15, 2:55, 3:35, 4:15, 5, 5:45,
6:30, 7:05, 7:45, 8:35, 9:20, 9:55 & 10:30 p.m.

BRATZ (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 1:55, 4:35, 7:15 & 9:55 p.m.

EL CANTANTE (R) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 11:20 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:40 & 10:35 p.m.

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) ★★ Century 20: 12:05 & 6 p.m.

HAIRSPRAY (PG) ★★★★★ Century 16: 11 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:35 &
10:25 p.m. Century 20: 11:25 a.m.; 12:40, 2:20, 3:15, 4:55, 5:55, 7:35 & 8:40 p.m.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
(PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 16: 12:30, 2:30, 3:35, 7, 8 & 10:05 p.m.
Century 12: 11:40 a.m.; 3, 7, & 10:10 p.m.

HOT ROD (PG-13) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:15 a.m.; 1:30, 3:45, 6, 8:15
& 10:30 p.m. Century 12: Noon, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 5, 6:15, 7:20, 8:30 & 10 p.m.

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME (R) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 3:40 & 9:45 p.m. Century 20: 2:25, 4:05, 7:50 & 10:25 p.m.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY (PG-13) ★★
Century 16: 11:05 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.
Century 12: 12:20, 1:40, 4:10, 5:10, 7:30, 8:50 & 10:25 p.m.

KNOCKED UP (R) ★★1/2 Century 20: 1:10 & 7:25 p.m.

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG-13) ★★★★★
Century 16: 12:50 & 6:50 p.m. Century 20: 11:35 a.m.; 2:30, 5:25 & 8:20 p.m.

MY BEST FRIEND (PG-13) ★★★★★ Guild: 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m.

NO RESERVATIONS (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 11:20 a.m.;
noon, 1:50, 4:25, 5:30, 7:10 & 9:40 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:20,
1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:15, 6:55, 7:55, 9:30 & 10:25 p.m.

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG-13) ★★★★★
Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 1:55, 4:40, 7:45 & 10:35 p.m.

ONCE (R) ★★1/2
Aquarius: 2:15, 4:30, 6:45 & 9 p.m. Mon. only at 2:15, 4:30 & 10 p.m.

PIRATE'S OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
(PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 2:30 & 8:20 p.m.

RATATOUILLE (G) ★★★★★ Century 16: 11:35 a.m.; 2:15, 5:05, 7:45 &
10:20 p.m. Century 20: 11:10 a.m.; 12:15, 2, 3:20, 4:50, 7:40 & 10:20 p.m.

RESCUE DAWN (PG-13) ★★1/2 Century 20: 1, 4:10, 7:20 &
10:15 p.m. Palo Alto Square: 1:30, 4:20, 7:15 and 10:10 p.m.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R)
(Not Reviewed) Guild: Sat. at midnight.

SICKO (PG-13) ★★★★★
Century 16: 12:45 & 6:45 p.m. Century 20: 6:50 & 9:40 p.m.

THE SIMPSONS MOVIE (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 12:05, 1:20, 2:20, 3:30, 4:30, 5:45, 7:05, 8:05,
9:20 & 10:30 p.m. Century 12: 11:30 a.m.; 12:10, 12:50, 1:30, 1:50, 2:40,
3:20, 4, 4:30, 5:20, 6, 6:40, 7:10, 8, 8:40, 9:20, 9:40 & 10:20 p.m.

SUNSHINE (R) ★1/2 Century 16: 3:50 & 10 p.m.
Century 20: 11:45 a.m.; 5:10 & 10:30 p.m.

TALK TO ME (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 20: 11:15 a.m.; 2, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.

THE TEN (R) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:45 a.m.; 2:25, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

TRANSFORMERS (PG-13) ★★ Century 16: 11:55 a.m.; 3:15, 6:55
& 10:10 p.m. Century 12: 11:50 a.m.; 12:30, 3:10, 6:15, 7:15 & 10:35 p.m.

UNDERDOG (PG) (Not Reviewed) Century 16: 11:10 a.m.; 1:15, 3:20,
5:25, 7:40 & 9:50 p.m. Century 20: 11:20 a.m.; 12:25, 1:30, 2:35, 3:40,
4:45, 5:50, 7, 8, 9:10 & 10:10 p.m.

WHO'S YOUR CADDY? (PG-13) (Not Reviewed)
Century 12: 3:50 & 9:40 p.m.

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

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)

CENTURY 20 DOWNTOWN: 825 Middlefield Road, Redwood City (369-3456)

CINEARTS AT PALO ALTO SQUARE: 3000 El Camino Real, Palo Alto (493-3456)

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

For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the
Aquarius, Guild and Park, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

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

For show times, plot synopses,
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and click on movies.



MOVIE REVIEWS

HAIRSPRAY ★★★★★

(Century 16, Century 20) Nikki Blonsky's big smile and big talent are a perfect fit for the role of Tracy Turnblad, the lovable central character of John Waters' 1988 original film and the Tony award-winning Broadway production. The height of her hairdo gets her sent out of the classroom and into detention. Seaweed (Elijah Kelley) and the others teach her all the right Detroit-sound dance moves. After school, Tracy and her best friend Penny (Amanda Bynes) race home to bebop to the televised Corny Collins Show — and swoon over Link Larkin (Zac Efron). Tracy is a young woman with a vision. The teen empathizes with the segregation concerns voiced by Motormouth Maybelle (Queen Latifah). If television is in black and white, why not "do the checkerboard"? African Americans should have equal rights on and off the dance floor. The themes of standing by one's convictions and struggling for fairness never lose their relevance. Campy and sweet-natured, "Hairspray" will shake away any summer-time blues. *Rated: PG for language, some suggestive content and momentary teen smoking. 1 hour, 47 minutes.* — S.T.

MY BEST FRIEND ★★★★★

(Guild) Francois (Daniel Auteuil) is a successful antiques dealer who appears to have it all: stylish digs, a satisfying sex life and a thriving business. But according to his acquaintances, there is one thing Francois doesn't have: friends. Apparently the rest of the world views Francois as demanding, arrogant and petty. Francois insists that he has many close friends and can prove it. So his business partner, Catherine (Julie Gayet), makes him a bet: produce his *best* friend or she will keep the valuable Greek vase the pair recently acquired for the business. Francois thumbs through his address book and starts making calls. And visits. To anyone and everyone who will listen and admit to liking him. Unfortunately the only viable candidate is a total stranger: a big-hearted trivia-spouting cabbie named Bruno (Dany Boon) who's hungry for his own bonds. A relationship slowly develops as does an obvious trajectory. The pacing is awkward, the scripting trite and the narrative pure formula. But beneath the observable veneer is a surprisingly thoughtful reflection on family, companionship and loneliness. *Rated: PG-13 for mature themes. In French with English subtitles. 1 hour, 35 minutes.* — J.A.

NO RESERVATIONS ★★ 1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) The plot of "No Reservations" deals with Kate (Catherine Zeta-Jones), a stone-cold chef whose world changes drastically when she becomes the guardian of Zoe, her 9-year-old niece. Self-centered and rule-oriented, Kate doesn't seem cut out for unplanned parenthood. Portraying a child suffering from the loss of her mother, Abigail Breslin stands out in a role very different from the beauty-pageant contestant of "Little Miss Sunshine." Enter Nick (Aaron Eckhart). Hired temporarily by the restaurant owner

(Patricia Clarkson), the gregarious, opera-loving sous-chef adds plenty of sugar to the movie — and moves the drama into the realm of romantic comedy. With everyone from iron chefs to animated rats whipping up ratatouille these days, the novelty of watching food being prepared and plated is gone. A too-familiar setting and plot formula remain. Although all the performances are good, Kate's character often rings false. Pairing pedestrian fare with a fairytale ending, "No Reservations" deserves a so-so rating — whether talking Michelin or movies. *Rated: PG for some sensuality and language. 1 hour, 45 minutes.* — S.T.

RESCUE DAWN ★★1/2

(CineArts, Century 20) The extraordinary experiences of German-born Dieter Dengler, a U.S. Navy pilot shot down over Laos and taken prisoner during the Vietnam War, bear repeating. But truth is stranger and sometimes better than fiction. Werner Herzog's fascinating 1997 documentary, "Little Dieter Needs to Fly," surpassed this dramatized version of the harrowing survival tale. Christian Bale bears a passing resemblance to the real-life Dengler, who died of ALS in February of 2001. He plays the role pragmatically, a guy with an iron will that can't be broken by starvation, a beehive tied to his head or water torture

administered by Laotian guards. "Rescue Dawn" feels like a POW procedural that picks up steam only during the prison escape attempt and later in close encounters with the enemy. Without a semblance of Herzog's signature mysticism or an ounce of insightfulness, the film becomes an unremarkable retelling of a remarkable true-life story. *Rated: PG-13 for some sequences of intense war violence and torture. 2 hours, 5 minutes.* — S.T.

SUNSHINE ★1/2

(Century 16, Century 20) Cillian Murphy is up front and center as mission physicist Capa, the voice of reason on the Icarus II.

Their mission is a daunting one: to reignite the sun whose light on earth appears to be waning. If there is such a thing as sun junkies, these guys are the poster boys (and girls), hooked on its polarizing light. Naturally there was a ship that went before them and naturally it disappeared. Of course they lose contact with the mother planet within 24 hours and run perilously low on oxygen. So what's the hook? Well, missing ship Icarus starts transmitting a distress signal that sends everyone into a tizzy. How is that possible when the crew is presumed dead? Should the Capa crew members ditch their rendezvous with the sun and rescue their compatriots?

Veterans of even a handful of "Star Trek" episodes know that the Icarus is up to no good, but our plucky crew is blissfully and heroically ignorant. "Sunshine" is an odyssey of stupidity with one bad decision piling on another. Visuals are brilliant throughout, but lost in a quick-cutting style so spare as to be subliminal. The climactic act is a bloody and bewildering frenzy. *Rated: R for violent content and language. 1 hour, 49 minutes.* — J.A.

■ **MOVIE CRITICS**

S.T.-Susan Tavernetti,
J.A.-Jeanne Aufmuth, T.H.-Tyler Hanley

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