

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Bring back the jobs

Editor:
Blue collar jobs and post-military education benefits paid for my college education. The degree I earned, a masters in psychology, did not lead to a good job. I found myself in the same place many young people find themselves in today.

Fortunately for me and thousands of Bay Area young people, the federal government provided apprenticeships in skilled and semi-skilled trades. I apprenticed and worked at the Alameda Naval Air Rework Facility, which at that time employed 16,000. It was one of several large federal facilities in the Bay Area.

Then, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. Ron Dellums, pushed for and succeeded in closing all Bay Area military bases. Our economy for skilled and semi-skilled workers has never recovered. "There is no hope," is the belief found among many young people today.

I will vote for candidates who have the greatest interest in bringing back skilled and semi-skilled jobs to the many Americans who now need them. (My list has narrowed. Hillary Clinton just announced she will put Bill in charge of economic recovery because he did such a "good job" when president. Those closures happened when he was president.

— David D. Thompson

Wake up and vote

Editor:
The Democratic Party appears one-sided in its approach to the upcoming primary election. In its favorable treatment of one instead of equal treatment of both candidates it has effectively turned off and shut down a sea of new voters (21-45) millennials and independents champing at the bit to get involved.

Pushing them away endangers the future of the party itself but worse, if our concern is to ensure Donald Trump is not elected in the general, marginalizing this huge block of voters is playing with fire. After the treatment doled out in Nevada, asking the voters to "come together because we're all democrats" is futile. Either the party leadership does not see this or is arrogant enough to think there's no problem.

Bottom line: you cannot abuse voters in this fashion and expect cooperation down the road.

If Trump wins, Senator Sanders supporters cannot be blamed. It's the Democratic Party and their exclusion of the millions of votes that would ensure a Democratic win.

But more to the point, the future of the Democratic Party demands a return to the values and principles proclaimed in the Party Charter and Bylaws – open, inclusive, fair, just, willing to fight for human rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ... these must be *living* words, not meaningless slogans shouted at rallies for that "feel good" effect.

Without these guiding principles informing our daily actions Democracy withers, and a Democratic convention devolves into chaos and the rule of law we so pride ourselves in, is usurped by gestapo tactics and totalitarian orders — as happened in Nevada.

Wake up. Educate yourself. Get involved. Vote.

— Gabrielle "Gaby" Dolphin

League weighs in on Prop 50, Measure AA

Editor:
On Tuesday, June 7, Alamedans will cast their vote for candidates and two ballot measures. While most measures now appear on the November ballot there are a few exceptions. Statewide Proposition 50 and San Francisco Bay Area Measure AA are on the ballot and the League recommends a "yes" vote for both.

Proposition 50 is a constitutional amendment that will give the state legislature clear authority to discipline members by suspending them with or without salary and benefits by a 2/3 vote of the members of that house. It is a step toward accountability for our elected officials.

Measure AA is \$12 parcel tax that will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefiting people, wildlife, and the Bay Area economy. More wetlands will improve the bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water; increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. The measure will expand Bay trails and shoreline access; and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods.

The League is a non partisan organization and does not support or oppose candidates. We advocate on issues where there has been member study and agreement.

— Karen Butter
League of Women Voters
Alameda Action Committee

Utter disbelief

Editor:
I don't usually take the time to write in my opinion, but I am so saddened and shocked by the death of the young student Giovanni Pulido, I had to say something ("Teen Athlete Dies Suddenly," May 26).

I am in utter disbelief that in 2016 a student should die from what simply sounds like heat stroke. The signs and symptoms of this condition have been well known for many, many years and there is no excuse for this type of death. It is sheer ignorance on a number of levels that a sports team at Encinal High should only be given one water break on a very warm day.

This policy needs to be scrapped. Athletes need to be informed of the signs of heat stroke at the start of each season, and coaches need to be on guard at all times for the health and well-being of their young players. I have children in sports and understand the inherent risks, but no parent can prepare for this, so my deepest sympathies to the family of this young man.

— Anthony Garza

No more 'bike trails'

Editor:
We were saddened, but not surprised, by the pedestrian death on Shore Line Drive ("Pedestrian Death on Shore Line Drive," May 19).

The confusing maze created by the bike-trail on Shoreline Drive has had the unintended consequence that some of us predicted. The entire drive is dangerous to cars and pedestrians. Only the bikes seem to be protected.

I am a frequent bike-rider, but I am in ardent opposition to what has been done to Shoreline Drive. My bike rides are constant. Never have I seen more than 10 bikes on Shore Line Drive, but I always see hundreds of cars. Alameda is not the bucolic country town where cars are few and traffic is nonexistent!

It is too late to reverse progress and change the daily patterns of life. Like it or not, cars are king. Please do no inflict any more of these ridiculous, useless bike trails on this city.

On Shore Line Drive, cars appear to be parked helter-skelter in the middle of the street; pedestrians cannot easily see around this maze to safely cross the much-narrowed street; opening your car door or crossing the street amidst this chaos is a dangerous adventure.

Enough is enough; stop the madness.

— C. A. Perry

Rhythmix says "thanks"

Editor:
On behalf of Rhythmix Cultural Works (RCW) we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made the first Island City Waterways event such a smashing success. More than 1,000 people, including 200 youth from AUSD schools, were able to attend this unique art experience along the waterfront between the Fruitvale and Park Street bridges.

It was a joy to share an art celebration that enlivened Alameda's rich maritime past and origins of great diversity through art, music, dance and community. Hopefully Island City Waterways deepened Alamedans' pride in the place they live, and introduced participants from other parts of the Bay Area to the region's unique cultural history.

Extra big thanks go out to all of our performers, volunteers, attendees, board of directors, community advisory board members and sponsors of this event including: Alameda Marina, Downtown Alameda Business Association, OMM, Inc., Tim Lewis Communities, Little House Café, Alameda Municipal Power, Alameda Point Partners, Horton, West & Chambers LLP, Alameda Collision Repair, Bay Ship & Yacht, Elaine Fong & Leon Yankwich, Glass Tek, Audrey Lord Hausman and Richard Hausman,

Our media sponsors included the *Alameda Sun* and *San Francisco Bay Crossings*. Our community partners were Epiphany Productions, the city of Alameda, Dragon Rouge restaurant, Island Acupuncture, Alameda Free Library, Alameda



Joe Heller

'Light' Shows on Stage thru June 12

Local reviewer really enjoyed Altarena performance

Jeffrey R. Smith

To preclude any ambiguity, *The Light in the Piazza* is best thing to happen to High Street since they put in the bridge.

Furthermore, now through June 12, you don't have to cross a bridge or wait in a tunnel to see the best theatre the Bay Area has to offer: it is here at the Altarena. Writing as a critic who sees 50 or more plays a year, this is the one you have been waiting for. Community theaters are often staid in their offerings, they are loath to take creative risks or to venture out onto an artistic limb; by sharp contrast, Alameda is fortunate to have Clay David as an artistic director.

David is here to challenge his audience; not to underestimate them; nor to sedate them with mere entertainment. Rather than sticking to reheats and recycling an anthology of tried, tired, tested and time-worn classics of theatre Americana, David delivers exactly what Alameda should demand from its artistic director: living art.

Quality theatre is performance art. Achieving superlative theatre involves intelligent risk and originality; not hunkering down within the ramparts of the safe and secure. Community theater often panders to subscribers — trotting out nostalgia pieces and settling for dredging up remembrances rather than delivering theatrical experiences. Real theater, is not about reruns of reruns.

Had you attended the opening night performance of *The Light in the Piazza* at the Altarena you would have witnessed the energized buzz of Alameda's cerebrotonics, theatre aficionados, music critics (self-appointed and otherwise), the literati and the illuminati, the core cognoscenti of stage art and of course, the indomitable bohemian fringe.

The confluence of music and lyrics by Adam Guettel, and a sleek book by Craig Lucas, deliver this adaptation of Elizabeth Spencer's novella into the imaginative hands of director Stewart Lyle; the rest is stage magic. Given

that the setting is Firenze and the plot involves falling in love in Italy, it follows that Guettel's score swoons romantically and soars passionately.

Musical Director Francesca Brava pulls out all the control rods; her orchestra is on stage, hidden behind a diaphanous curtain; the music swells and flows like the Arno, inundating the audience. Contrary to the maxim of Henry David Thoreau, to wit — "Most men (people) lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them" — the characters of *Piazza* courageously let the songs out of their hearts and drive desperation, like an evil spirit, from their thresholds.

The operatic music and lyrics highlight the colliding, conflicting and clashing feelings of all of the characters. Beware: there is something unusual about the soaring melodies; something rarely heard in American musicals. As Josh Cohen, the violinist, explained: the music is a departure from expectation and tradition. "It's called dissonance."

He should know, he really leans his bow into the strings to produce the dissonant sound that rightly characterizes the score. The effect is to provide a stimulating subliminal element: a message buried deep within the tonal quality of the music.

The music exposes, illuminates, the psyches of the characters. Cohen, a talented violinist rivaling Joseph Gold, wrings non-traditional strains and unsettling sounds from his instrument: the music is reminiscent of Phillip Glass (Einstein of the Beach) and Elvis Costello (The Juliet Letters).

The Light in the Piazza is set in 1953, the beginning of the Eisenhower doldrums. Margaret Johnson (played infuriatingly well by Donna Turner), is a domineering, overly-protective, smothering mother — she might give you shortness of breath — and she is stereotypic tourist: one that mispronounces and misplaces the accent on even the most rudimen-

Review

As Josh Cohen, the violinist, explained: the music is a departure from expectation and tradition. "It's called dissonance."

tary Italian words and she reads aloud from her tour book like a hack Cicerone.

Margaret is the unhappy wife of an American businessman; she is traveling with her daughter Clara. Clara is 26 but emotionally she is going on sixteen; blame it on a kick from a rented pony at her twelfth birthday party. Madison Genovese is simply dazzling as Clara; she lights up the stage; she needs no Klieg Lights; she is a veritable array of Klieg Lights.

Her exuberance when she falls in love with Fabrizio Naccarelli is absolutely contagious — the entire audience momentarily — and secretly of course — flashes back to his or her first love when he or she was convinced they had invented love itself.

Fabrizio Naccarelli, a handsome Florentine, is played by the dashing Kyle Stoner.

The passionate and romantic sparks of Stoner and Genovese are incendiary — fortunately the house smoke alarms never sounds. *The Light in the Piazza* evolved in Seattle in June 2003, its owners are as protective of their show as Margaret is of Clara. They are selective in approving venues for the play. Much to the credit of Stewart Lyle and David, the Altarena was approved. The critics talk about nearly all shows; but this is a show that audiences will talk about; it is not to be missed.

Tickets are available online at www.altarena.org or 523-1553.

Jeffrey R. Smith is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle.

Please Vote Tuesday

Editorial

to vote. No amount of whining, blustering or protesting will add up to the single most powerful weapon in the public's arsenal: the vote.

Vote with integrity, vote with pride, vote with intelligence, but most of all vote Tuesday, June 7.

Dragon Flyers, the Alameda Museum, Alameda Natural Grocery, Alameda Unified School District, Buena Vista United Methodist Church, East Bay Regional Park District, Julie's Coffee & Tea, PK Consultants, Pineapple Sales and Stone Boatyard.

Special thanks to our funders: The James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett

Our Letters Policy

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Alameda Sun*, its advertisers or staff.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from the community. Letters must include a name and phone number for verification purposes. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters are subject to editing for length, clarification and legal considerations. Please try to limit letters to 250 words.

Mail your letters to Editor, *Alameda Sun*, 3215 J Encinal Ave., Alameda, CA 94501, or e-mail them to editor@alamedasun.com.

Alameda Sun

We convey the Alameda experience, both past and present, through an informative, financially viable community newspaper, in print and online.

The award-winning publication by Stellar Media Group, Inc.
An Adjudicated Newspaper Established 2001
23,000 copies delivered FREE Every Thursday

SUN STAFF

Eric J. Kos & Dennis Evanosky
Publishers

Ekene Ikeme, Sports & Web Editor

Laurel Yeates, Calendar Editor

Pauline Evanosky, Finance

Jillian Strahler, Administrative Assistant

Colin Close, Graphic Designer

Cindy Pelletier, Account Executive

Contributors

Ron Salsig, Ed Jay, JoanAnn Radu-Sinaiko,

Gil Michaels, Irene Dieter, Richard Bangert,

Mike Rosati, Mike Lano, Jeffrey R. Smith,

Maurice Ramirez

The Alameda Sun is a member of:



3215J Encinal Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

Editorial ■ 510-263-1470

Advertising ■ 510-263-1471

Finance/Production ■ 510-263-1472

Fax ■ 510-263-1473

www.alamedasun.com

The Alameda Sun is independently owned and operated. The newspaper is supported by its advertisers and subscribers. The Sun focuses on just the news that affects the residents of the city of Alameda, from the West End to the East End, from Bay Farm to Alameda Point.