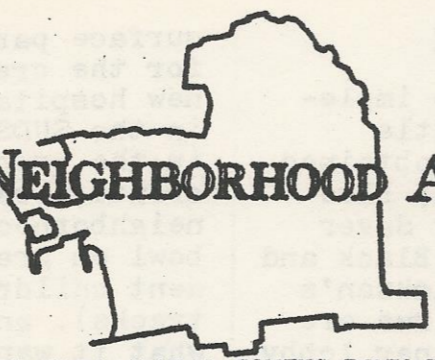


# COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



"TO LET THE NEIGHBORHOODS KNOW WHAT'S COMING DOWN BEFORE IT LANDS ON THEM"

Newsletter No. 6

August, 1976

Berkeley, Calif.

## WHERE, OH WHERE, IS THE PARK LAND GOING??

The flatlands need open space-- parks and recreational facilities. No one questions that, not even the city staff. BUT the open space is slipping away while the city sits on its collective hands. There could be a Strawberry Creek Park in the SUDS area, one of the few places where the creek is out of the pipe and above-ground. BUT the City Council seems inclined toward a hospital-institutional complex there instead. There could be a major park area on the Hearst Strip. BUT the city diddled and Peralta snatched the land up for empire-building--a traditional campus for their "non-traditional" college.

There could be a major facility, including community center, on the Cedar-Rose land, near Chestnut, in NOBBS. BUT the city waited so long to purchase the land that someone else bought a major part of it first; they plan to build a building there and bring in more traffic.

Measure Y was a good piece of legislation and most of the Park and Rec people seem to have their hearts in the right place. BUT where are their heads? Why, with all the Measure Y money and all the good intentions, is open space disappearing rather than growing?

## THE NEWSLETTER RETURNS!

By popular demand, the CNA Newsletter goes back into production this month. It will accompany the meeting announcement every month from now on.

The Newsletter is, as usual, the production of just a few members who have minimal energy to spare. We eagerly welcome all contributions of fact or opinion, as well as help with typing, layout, reproduction, and distribution. We reserve the right to summarize material and refer readers to the source for full details. Needless to say, all such material represents the views of the writer and not necessarily of the Council of Neighborhood Associations.

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COPY DEADLINE for the next  
Newsletter is Sunday, Sept. 5

## BOTTLE ORDINANCE BOTTLED UP

The newest obstacle to implementation of Berkeley's bottle ordinance is an injunction obtained by Park & Shop Market, Inc., Blue and Gold Grocery Co., Penny Saver Market, Sacramento Market, Black and White Liquor Stores, and Jackson's Liquor Mini-Mart. These firms are part of the beverage-container lobby that has spent millions of dollars challenging bottle bills throughout the United States.

We know bottle bills are effective: Oregon's beverage-related litter dropped 66% within a year after adoption of a bottle bill. Vermont was even more successful with a cut of 76% of roadside beverage litter within the first year.

Once again we are being victimized by a special interest group out to make a fast buck in Berkeley and willing to tap our public treasury by dragging the city into court to protect their private interests. Let's save ourselves some tax money by making a point of not patronizing these stores. Perhaps that will cut off some of the money they need to pursue lawsuits against us.

## THE BICENTENNIAL BULLDOZER ROLLS ON

The latest victim of the Bicentennial Bulldozer is the Wilson House on Graduate Theological Union property north of campus. The City Council approval of expansion for a major tax-exempt institution (GTU) continues an unwritten but effective Council plan that might be called Promote Institutional Growth (PIG). It is becoming a joke, with the same punchline as the joke about the 500-lb gorilla: Where can an institution in Berkeley get approval from the Council to expand? Wherever it wants to.

Apparently encouraged by the destructive impacts of the Alta Bates expansion, the Council majority has in the last year approved a major expansion of Herrick Hospital (resulting in the loss of the Barker House and creation of a huge, ugly

surface parking lot), set the stage for the creation of an entirely new hospital-institutional complex in the SUDS Neighborhood (blowing in the process the opportunity to create Strawberry Creek Park in a neighborhood where the well-to-do bowl on green lawns and the resident children play on the railroad tracks), and now granted the GTU what it wanted without bothering to make any provision to limit further expansion by this mega-institution. Also, we seem destined for further victimization by the Peralta Community College District.

It seems that those areas on Master Plan maps that we thought were residential areas are, in the unwritten PIG Plan, merely tax paying landbanks held in reserve for future institutional growth.

Those voting for destruction of the Wilson House were Councilmembers Davis, Dean, Hone, Ramsey, and Widener.

## HISTORIC PRECEDENT: COUNCIL CARRIES OUT VOTERS' MANDATE

The City Council has voted to take over the Berkeley Redevelopment Agency, just as 59% of the voters requested that they do in the June election. The ordinance calling for takeover has passed the required second reading and, after a required 30-day waiting period, the separate BRA apparatus will be incorporated into the city.

However, the BRA has not gone into oblivion without doing some more of those things we have unfortunately come to expect of them. 1) During the week before the public hearing on taking over the BRA, the BRA board voted nine-month contracts for the top staff of the agency (the first contracts they've ever had). 2) During their 30-day death throes they are continuing to sue the city--using the city's money to do it. Presumably, when the city does complete the takeover it will refrain from suing itself.