

Toxic waste aplenty on Treasure Island

Radium 226, PCBs, other poisons linger in the soil

BY MARK HEDIN

TREASURE Island, for many, invokes visions of adventure and buried pirate gold, thanks to writer Robert Louis Stevenson, onetime San Franciscan.

Perhaps Gavin Newsom was fantasizing thusly, when, in one of his latter acts as mayor, he agreed to pay the Navy \$105 million for the 403 acres of sand and sludge dumped into the middle of San Francisco Bay in the late 1930s and dubbed Treasure Island, to be home of the 1939 World's Fair.

The origin of the island's name could have come from the Stevenson book or because the landfill material, dredged from the bottom of the bay, arrived as river-borne debris from prospectors working upstream in the Mother

Lode. In any case, new fortunes are to be made in any \$1.5 billion project, and developers such as Miami's Lennar Corp. and politically connected Angeleno Ron Burkle's Kenwood Investments are poised to do just that on Treasure Island.

"There's no such thing as complete clean-up."

Saul Bloom
CEO, ARC ECOLOGY

Just weeks ago, the board of supervisors and Mayor Ed Lee enthusiastically and unanimously approved a development plan for Treasure Island that breathlessly calls for 8,000 new housing units — 1,600 of them "below market," the rest projected to sell for \$600,000 to \$900,000 each — a ferry terminal, sailboat harbor and other amenities, including 140,000 square feet of retail space to accommodate 17,000 new residents who will join the 2,000 islanders already there.

In mid-July, Citizens for a Sustainable Treasure Island, a group including former Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin,

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Art Beat urges neighborhood troupe

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CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA!

SAN FRANCISCO

'CULTURE OF VIOLENCE'



ILLUSTRATION BY AKIKO SMITH

Guards at the U.C. law school want to wear guns, which would increase their pay and benefits and enhance their careers in law enforcement. Some of their neighbors emphatically say no.

Battle of Hastings

U.C. law school security guards want to be armed

BY JONATHAN NEWMAN

ELEVEN Hastings security guards and their three management personnel have formally asked the law school's approval for the right to carry guns on duty. The request will be discussed Sept. 9 at an open meeting of the board of trustees.

When Hastings CFO David Seward told the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative in May that the guards wanted to be armed, many at the meeting went ballistic, with Rev. Glenda Hope leading the charge.

"I don't think we need any more guns on the streets, no matter who has them," said Hope in a recent interview. "If you have guns, you're going to use them, and they contribute to a culture of violence. I think Hastings' guards can react the same way the rest of us would — either intervene if they can do it safely, or call 911." Hope stated she is not a "pro-gun person."

Hope, the Network Ministries cleric who chairs the Collaborative, a major information forum for the Tenderloin, was not alone in her opposition to the proposal.

At the May meeting, Friar Tom West, St. Anthony Foundation representative on the Collaborative, contrasted the work dining room monitors do at the long lines for food, noting good training allows them to maintain order without weapons.

Glendon "Anna Conda" Hyde, a Tenderloin activist and newly appointed member of the Entertainment Commission, also spoke against arming the guards. More recently, he said, "If you give people guns, you're giving them guns to use. Why invite the ability for more violence when there's no just cause to do so? I think we see in recent (shootings) that more guns lead to more violence, and the violence is disproportionately against people with lower socio-economic means."

Hyde, a board member of the Harvey Milk Club, added that the club's executive board voted unanimously to oppose the Hastings guards' request. "We have written a letter to Hastings, the board of supervisors and the mayor's office opposing this," he said. "We don't believe it's the right thing to do."

If the security guards achieve their goal, they will expand an already sizable group of armed personnel working for government agencies in the Civic Center, joining San Francisco deputy sheriffs at City Hall and the Superior Court on McAllister, the marshals at the Golden Gate Avenue State Building and Federal Protection Service security at four federal buildings.

The guards who patrol the Heart of the City Farmers' Market each Wednesday and Sunday are the only private armed guards in the neighborhood (see sidebar). Security personnel at the Art Institute of California-San Francisco's two locations on U.N. Plaza are not armed.

Frank Wu, Hastings chancellor and dean, let his board of trustees know last May that the guards felt "the need to better protect themselves in their employment." In

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PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO

Signs like this on Avenue M indicate radioactive waste. Many other hot spots dot the island.