

New trial granted in famous San Francisco dog mauling

by **Kate Hinsche**
People Editor

On Jan. 26, 2001, Diane Whipple was attacked and killed by two Presa Canario dogs while trying to enter her San Francisco apartment. Owners Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel were both charged with manslaughter, and Knoller received an additional charge of second degree murder as a result of her actions the day that her dogs, Hera and Bane, killed her neighbor. As of Nov. 16, Knoller is seeking to overturn her 2002 murder conviction in the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

Knoller and Noel, a married pair of lawyers aged 45 and 59 at the time of the attack, had taken custody of the dogs three months prior as a favor to their client Paul Schneider. Schneider, serving life in prison at Pelican Bay State Prison and a member of the white supremacist Aryan Brotherhood, was adopted by the couple as their son three days after the attack. Reports have found that Schneider was working in tandem with a prison gang called the Mexican Mafia, breeding vicious dogs to fight and guard illegal methamphetamine labs run by the gang. Russ Heimrich of the State Corrections Department reported that the dogs came from this crime ring.



PRESA CANARIO: The mastiff breed is commonly known for being aggressive.

Before the killer dogs came into the custody of Knoller and Noel, a woman named Janet Coumbs raised the dogs for Schneider and his associates. Coumbs reportedly told the San Francisco Chronicle she was tired of attempting to control the two Canarios after they ate all of her sheep, chickens, and house cat and warned the lawyers of their brutal tendencies. Even so, Knoller is continuing with her appeal on the grounds that it is unclear whether she knew her actions would result in Whipple's death.

This is not Knoller's first attempt to escape her 15 years to life conviction. An appeals court in 2007 upheld the second-degree murder conviction, stating that when Knoller took her two dogs into the hallway she "deliberately engaged in behavior that was a danger to human life." Meanwhile, her husband Noel, who was not charged with murder due to his absence the day of the attack, has served his time for his 2002 manslaughter conviction and is resuming normal life.

Early speculation on the success of Knoller's current attempt to overturn her conviction is not in favor of the defendant, but a decision on the case is not expected for several months.

(Sources: SF Dog Mauling, New York Times, ABC News)

California has potential for first US offshore wind farm

by **Hyuntae Byun**
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, the Seattle-based electric company Trident Winds filed early paperwork with Morro Bay city officials in order to secure approval for a proposed offshore floating wind farm. If approved, the firm will install 100 636-foot-tall turbines 15 miles off of the San Luis Obispo County shoreline. These turbines would be capable of generating 1,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power up to 300,000 residential homes. The turbines would cover 40,000 acres of ocean and would be spaced half a mile apart. They would be linked underwater via a network of power cables, and all electricity would ultimately be shipped back to shore through a central power line connected to the Morro Bay Power Plant, a former Pacific Gas & Electric facility that closed two years ago, but is still connected to the main transmission lines.

The planned Trident Winds offshore facility would be the first floating wind farm in the US. Currently, California is already a national leader in wind energy on land, second only to Texas. 1,883 turbines located at strategic points along Tehachapi Pass in Kern County, Altamont Pass in Alameda County, San Geronio Pass in Riverside County, and Solano County provide up to eight percent of California's electricity.

Despite the extant significant renewable energy infrastructure

in California, there has been a recent push towards even more reliance upon renewable energy sources. For example, in October Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill into law requiring that the state's utilities provide at least half of the state's electricity from solar, wind, and other renewable sources by 2030. Currently, the state's utilities provide just over 20 percent of electricity from renewable sources, which is double the share of renewables from just a decade ago. Other states are also fielding plans for floating wind technology, and the Department of Energy recently concluded a study that found that offshore wind in the US could supply 4,150 gigawatts of electricity, or four times the combined electricity now being produced by all power plants in the US.

Nevertheless, Trident Winds and other companies hoping to install floating wind turbines will likely run into many obstacles. Morro Bay, which has a population of 10,000, is well-known for its scenic beaches, proximity to Hearst Castle, and fishing fleet. Its two primary industries are tourism and fishing, which are both potentially threatened by the construction of offshore wind turbines.

In response to local concerns, Trident Winds representatives at town meetings stated that the distance between the farm and the shore means that the turbines will not be visible from the beach, although they will be visible from the hills around Hearst Castle.

At the same time, the company acknowledged that fishing boats will be unable to drag nets around the turbines, but stated that it would be willing to negotiate about the exact placement of the turbines; currently, the turbines would occupy an area that is popular among fishermen.

Another concern that locals have about the turbines is their impact on the local environment and ecosystems. Morro Bay is frequented by pods of migrating whales that may be disturbed by the turbines, and the blades of rotating wind turbines have been known to cause bird fatalities. Trident Winds attempted to alleviate these concerns by releasing a statement in which they claimed that the turbines will have a decreased effect on birds because there are fewer birds offshore and that studies of other floating turbines have revealed that whales will swim around them like they swim around large rocks.

Finally, even if the company receives local approval, it will take several years for Trident Winds to secure permits from the federal government, the Coastal Commission, and other agencies. In the meantime, they will need to raise hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from investors. On the other hand, if they succeed it may pioneer a new wave of offshore wind farms.

(Sources: San Jose Mercury News, Los Angeles Daily News, CBS, Washington Times)

LG talent seen in The Nerd

by **Jessica Blough**
Center Editor

From Nov. 19 through 21, the LGHS Drama Department debuted its annual fall play, "The Nerd." The seven-person cast and large crew planned, rehearsed, built, and devoted hours of their time to the show in preparation for the opening night.



courtesy J. Barrett

BREAK A LEG: The actors are all smiles before a performance.

"The Nerd" revolves around a fairly unexceptional architect named Willum Cubbert, played by junior **Jaydon Barnett**, who hosts a dinner party for his birthday. He invites several of his friends, but only his friend Axel (senior **Sawyer Chadwick**), his almost-girlfriend Tansy (senior **Anna Silva**), and his clients the Waldgraves (sophomore **Rishi Chhapolia**, freshman **Summer Lambert**, and freshman **Tessa Citron-Pousty**) are able to attend. Tansy is about to move to Washington DC, so this is one of their last nights together.

The night is nearly upended by the Waldgraves' daughter, but Willum maintains a degree of control over the evening until Rick Steadman (senior **Tyler Mashkooi**) arrives. Rick, or The Nerd, saved Willum's life in Vietnam, though Willum was unconscious for the incident and has no memory of Rick. Willum feels obligated to welcome Rick into his home, even though they have never met and Rick's behavior is close to intolerable. He has no social skills and fails to recognize the inconvenience he causes. The entire first act centers around the dinner party, as Willum attempts to maintain the respect of his clients and deal with his unexpected guest.

By the second act, Rick has moved in with Willum, much to his dismay. Willum has already lost his clients, and Rick's behavior has not improved. He hatches a plan with Tansy and Axel to act so crazy that they drive Rick out; however, Rick accepts their crazy behavior, and the plan fails. Finally, convinced that he will never be able to get away from Rick, Willum decides to move to Virginia, where he can be with Tansy and start a new, Rick-free life. Perhaps the greatest part of this show was the surprise ending, when it is revealed that The Nerd is not the real Rick Steadman but a friend of Axel's, cast in a plot to convince Willum to follow Tansy to Washington. This reveal added another dimension to the show, adding a hint of romance to what was previously just humorous.

The cast of this show, consisting of Barnett, Silva, Chadwick, Mashkooi, Chhapolia, Lambert, and Citron-Pousty, was unusually small but powerful. The actors were shamelessly courageous and willing to do whatever was necessary to portray their characters, no matter how ridiculous. Mashkooi, or The Nerd, displayed an incredible level of confidence as he sang, danced, and otherwise embarrassed himself in front of a live audience. Chadwick perfectly portrayed the witty and sarcastic Axel, who voiced what the audience thought at the most absurd moments, but he also made his character seem caring enough to make the ending believable. Citron-Pousty was another star of the production, going above and beyond to portray the unsteady daughter of Willum's clients.

The LGHS Drama Department put on an incredible



courtesy J. Barrett

show and is sure to do so again in the spring. Auditions for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" took place through the week of Dec. 1, and the performances will take place in early March.

Bay Area responds to Paris

by **Antonia Salisbury**
Editor-in-Chief

After the Paris attacks on Nov. 13, the world was in shock. Since the horrific attacks that killed 130 innocent French citizens, people around the world have shown their support. Internationally, countries have shown their sympathies by projecting blue, white, and red light onto famous monuments. Others took to Facebook and other social media outlets to express their support for those who had been affected by the tragic terrorist attack. In the Bay Area, there has been a grand

world, these attacks were made largely at random in varying entertainment districts. So, it is difficult to know where to center officers on patrol. Because of this, many areas, such as the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, have not increased security at all. Adrienne Freeman of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area asserts that, "Right now, there's no increased threat level. So we are not looking for different behaviors, but we are being very aware of what's going on around us." Many other sites that have yet to increase security attribute this to the increase in security



showing of support ranging from efforts made by the aforementioned social media companies to more locally centered candlelight vigils.

While no specific ISIS threats have been made to California, cities across the US are upping the ante when it comes to security protocols. According to NBC Bay Area, San Francisco's police department "went on heightened alert" following the attacks. They have attempted to place a larger emphasis on protecting places that are densely populated with little organization (such as sporting centers and large shopping districts). Nonetheless, some major areas still have yet to increase security measures.

In looking at the Paris attacks, it is difficult to know who, where, and what to be focusing protective efforts on. This is because, in the eyes of French security forces and everyone else in the

measures post 9/11, saying that their sites are already secure in the case of a terrorist attack.

The SFPD bolstered security after the attacks by raising the number of officers on patrol. After ISIS' threat to Washington DC, other large cities feel at-risk. So, San Francisco police are doing their best to protect public and highly populated areas. This includes tourists attractions and sporting centers. Sporting centers are an especially large concern for those fearing an attack similar to the one in Paris. In the Bay Area, Levi's Stadium is taking extra, undisclosed precautions for the upcoming Super Bowl 50.

According to Alan Wang of ABC 7 News, the United States park police are asking the citizens to "be vigilant wherever they are." (Sources: San Jose Mercury News, abc7 News, SF Bay News, New York Times)