

# METRO

HAIGHT ASHBURY VFW

SUMMER OF LOVE

## What goes around...

### Ex-hippies find themselves raising kids on the other side of the fence

By Julian Guthrie  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

**W**HENEVER Steve Strauss was tempted to tell his daughters to "turn down that awful music," he bit his tongue.

When Bob and Jill Owen heard their kids talking about drugs, they did their best to explain why they should wait until they were adults.

Even when teased by their kids that they could live "cold and dirty," Michelle and Calvin Welch refrained from complaining about the younger generation's "obsession with money."

Thirty years after the Summer of Love, former hippies, who often shocked and dismayed their own parents by joining anti-war protests, growing their hair, doing drugs and tuning in to Dylan, the Dead and Jefferson Airplane, are reliving the turbulence of youth — through their children.

"Oh yeah, my kids are not shy about finding good arguments, and when it comes to drugs, they'll say, 'Dad, you did them,'" says Bob Owen of Marin, who ran an arts workshop in the hippie epicenter of the Haight-Ashbury in the late '60s and early '70s, and now works for the Sign and Display Union. "I tell them I was a little older than they are, and when they're adults, they can do anything they want."

Smiling, he adds: "Besides, the '60s weren't just about doing wild things. We also did a lot that was responsible and worthwhile. things that

straight."

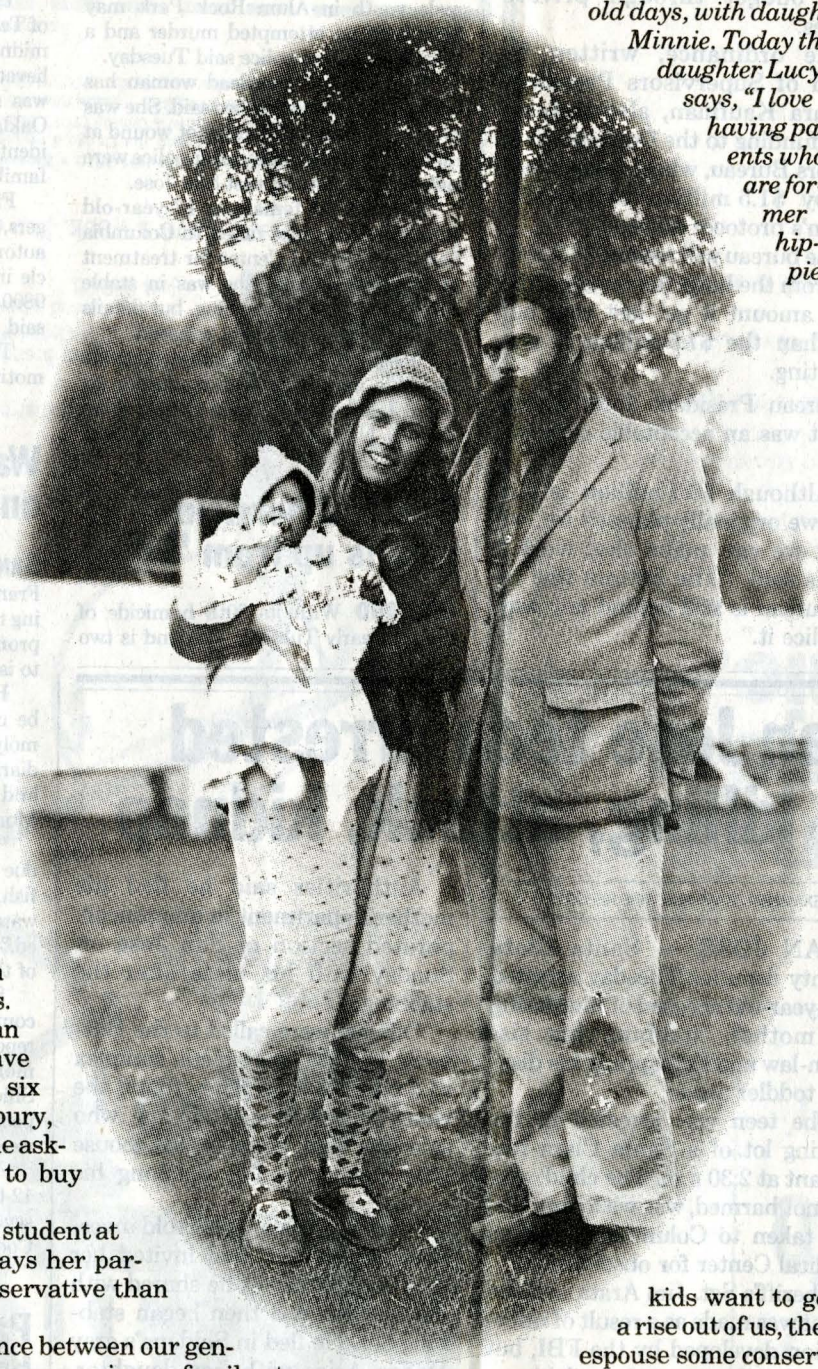
Prentice and Rhiannon Welch, who were raised on Ashbury Street, a half-block from Haight Street, agree that drugs have never held much appeal to them.

"I never felt like drugs were a big deal for me," says Prentice, 21, a senior at UC-Davis. "For as long as I can remember, I have been able to walk six blocks, down Ashbury, and I'll get 30 people asking me if I want to buy drugs."

Rhiannon, 18, a student at UC-Santa Cruz, says her parents are more conservative than one would think.

"The big difference between our generations, one that comes up in our family at least, is 'consumerism,'" says Rhiannon, whose name comes from a Fleetwood Mac song and is also the name of the Welsh goddess of war. "My brother and I enjoy the finer things in life, and we have this running joke that my parents like to live 'cold and dirty.'"

Prentice says there's another point of contention. "Certain discussions about politics get us both going," he says. "I remember seeing a documentary on Tiananmen Square, and I was really upset the government would



Jill and Bob Owen, back in the old days, with daughter Minnie. Today their daughter Lucy says, "I love having parents who are former hippies."

kids want to get a rise out of us, they espouse some conservative view," he says.

Or, adds Michelle, they "talk about piercing various body parts — which would be totally out of character for them."

"Really, though, the clash I see is over money," Calvin says. "They are much more preoccupied with how much they're going to earn than we were. We were never thinking about that. We lived much more day-to-day."

#### Passing on positive ideology

Steve Strauss, who was a student at UC-Berkeley in the '60s and wrote a book on rock

## Supervisors vote \$384,905 to hire more aides

### Current staffers snowed under, they say, and need some lower-paid help

By Chuck Finnie  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Saying the public needs them, the Board of Supervisors will take \$384,905 out of The City's reserves to hire each of its members a new aide.

"You will see, we will be providing better quality of service," said Supervisor Leslie Katz, defending the move. "We are the first line for the public seeking information. We need to be knowledgeable and efficient."

Currently, each of the 11 supervisors has a budget that includes enough to pay two aides a minimum of \$46,500. The aides analyze and prepare legislation and communicate with city residents.

The performance of some staffers has declined, apparently from an increasing work load, said some of the eight supervisors who Monday voted in favor of the hiring.

The pending new demands of dealing with federal welfare reform were also put forth as an argument for the hiring, as well as the complex economics of world trade, particularly with growing Asian markets.

Supervisor Jose Medina called for austerity, saying social services should have a higher priority than additional aides. Medina and Supervisor Michael Yaki voted against the measure.

Medina wasn't mollified by a

### S.F. SUPERVISORS

In other business Monday, the Board of Supervisors, with Supervisor Susan Leal absent:

► **PARKS:** Voted unanimously to build a second Civic Center Park. The playground, which would be constructed at the corner of Grove and Larkin streets, would be designed for grade-school children. It will be paid for with a \$250,000 settlement of a lawsuit over construction of a new state government building at 455 Golden Gate Ave.

► **FIRES:** Heard Supervisor Mabel Teng announce she would conduct a hearing in the wake of the two fatal fires last week that left two people dead and more than 300 homeless. Teng said she would ask The City's nonprofit housing organizations and the owners of the two structures that burned — the Delta Hotel on Sixth Street and a highrise apartment near Moscone Center — how they planned to help the displaced residents. Teng is also expected to again urge that the fire victims be housed temporarily on Treasure Island.

► **REDEVELOPMENT:** Heard board President Barbara Kaufman introduce legislation to create a redevelopment area to help finance construction of a new federal building at Seventh and Mission streets, across from the remodeled U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. At a cost of \$120 million, the proposed building would rise 19 stories on the site of an abandoned Greyhound bus terminal and include 35,000 square feet of ground-level private retail rental space.

Compiled by Chuck Finnie of The Examiner staff.

SUMMER OF LOVE: 30 YEARS LATER

get them to focus on that."

Apparently, it's working. Sitting in a North Beach cafe, the Owens clan seems to radiate the '60s mantra of peace and love.

"I love having parents who are former hippies," says 19-year-old Lucy Owen, an aspiring actress. "I don't know if it's growing up in a city like San Francisco or having the parents I do, but I feel I don't have any of the prejudice that a lot of people do."

Another bonus of having a mom and dad who were flower children, she adds, is, "They don't rag on what you wear."

Cree Owen, 16, a junior at Terra Linda High School, who wants to be an artist, says when he needs to write papers on the counterculture, he has excellent resources.

"I talk to my mom and dad," he says.

Hearing this, his mom, Jill Owen, who ran the Haight-Ashbury arts workshop with Bob, recalls how they made many of the puppets-on-stilts used in Bay Area anti-war demonstrations.

"During Vietnam, we were only interested in making a statement about the war," she muses. "Only now do we realize what it was like for the people who were there."

Minnie Owen, 23, a Montessori school teacher in Santa Barbara, says she appreciates the '60s era for the voice it gave to women. "It was a time when women demanded equality and were recognized," Minnie says.

Of the decade's pleasure triumvirate of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, the Owen kids are most comfortable talking about the latter.

"I don't care how liberal your parents are, or how many drugs they may have done as hippies," Minnie says, "no kids are very comfortable talking with their parents about drugs."

#### Rebels against the hippie cause

In whatever form, in every era, "There is a universal need to rebel," says Dr. Mark Levy, chair of the San Francisco Foundation for Psychoanalysis. "It's interesting, though, because many times, children who grow up with hippie parents, especially if they lived in communal situations, often become rather

in roll with Gren Marcus, says his kids, 23 and 25 — love looking at photos of him in his wild hippie days.

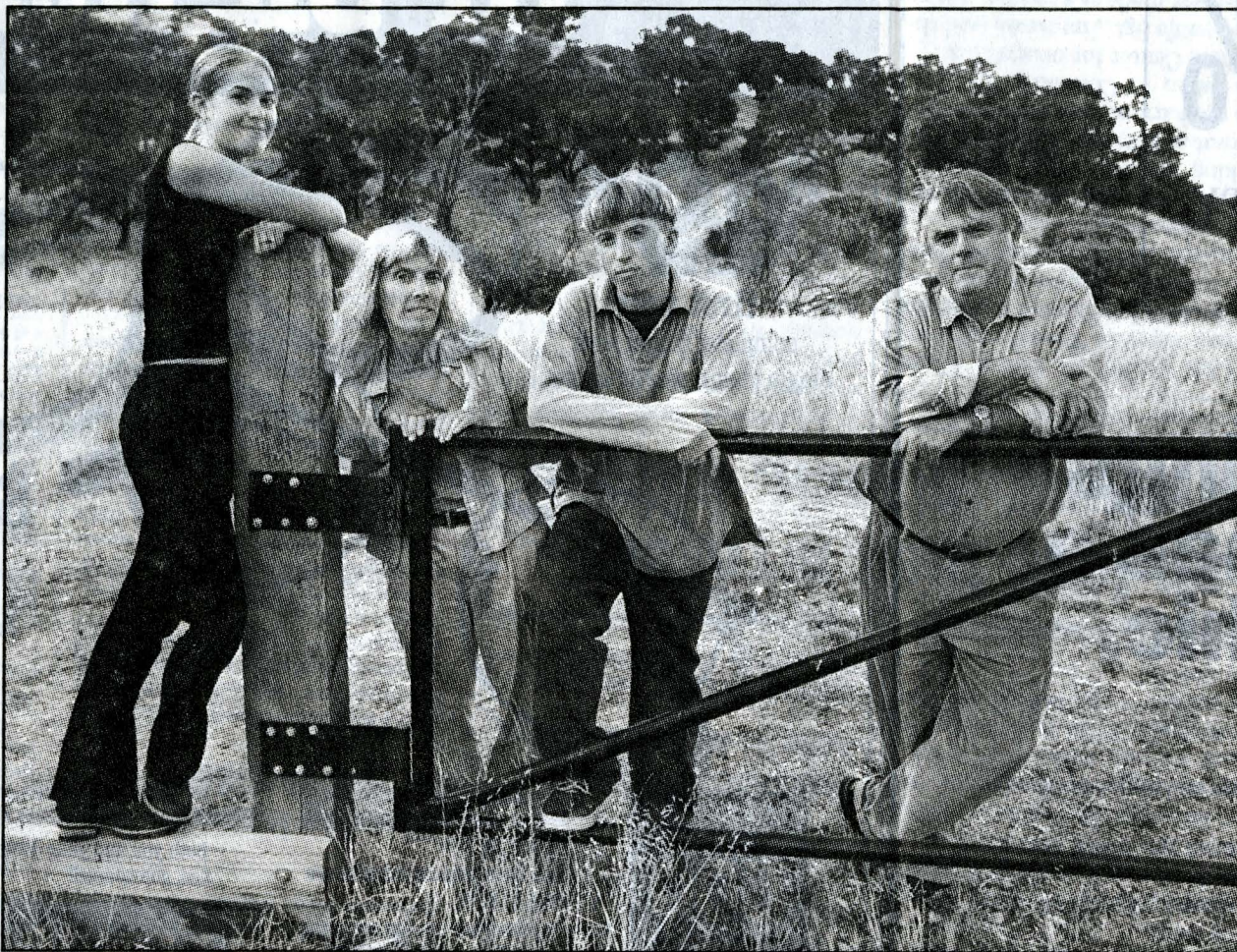
#### 'You realize you're getting old'

In their home, an old Victorian they've lived in since 1973, Michelle and Calvin Welch — who met as students at S.F. State and were married in 1964 — say they'd probably still be living more like hippies if it weren't for the kids.

"The biggest changes in our lives have revolved around our kids," says Calvin, a neighborhood activist. "You start worrying about

"They laugh and laugh," says Strauss, a musician and writer who is working on a coming-of-age novel set in the Bay Area in the '60s. "They joked about my long hair and how I wore funny clothes and how their mom had a buzz cut."

Strauss, who lives in Sausalito, says in raising his daughters he tried to pass along some of the positive ideology that came alive in the '60s.



The Owen family kicks back in Marin. From left are Lucy, 19; Jill; Cree, 16; and Bob.

SASCHA FEXER

them doing crack and heroin and abusing alcohol."

With a laugh, he adds: "When you start criticizing their music, you realize you're a parent, and you're really getting old."

Sitting in their kitchen, Michelle, who runs a typography business South of Market, says certain changes are for the best.

"We lived high-hippie culture," she says. "Macrobiotic food. All the '60s music and culture. We washed all our clothes by hand because we didn't want to waste water."

Hearing this, Calvin shakes his head. "When our

"One thing I learned, with the drugs, war, resistance and music of that era, is that although people may criticize you, and you may be misunderstood, you should follow your passions," he says. "Thank goodness, that's something both my kids have."

His kids also taught him an important lesson — one with roots in the '60s. "No matter how bad the music sounds," he says, "refrain from screaming, 'That beat is so loud you can't hear the lyrics.'"

#### THE SERIES

**Sunday:** The way it was

**Monday:** Digging into the Sixties

**Tuesday:** Across the generations

Note: Examiner National Edition stories appear one day later.

calls for the jobs to end in 2001 unless new legislation renews them.

Yaki criticized the move as an end-run around The City's regular budgetary process, which just concluded when the board reviewed, amended and passed Mayor Brown's spending plan for the fiscal year that began July 1.

Supervisor Susan Leal, who is running for city treasurer, was absent.

Before the vote, Supervisor Sue Bierman objected to the fact that the budget for new aides would provide a salary of only \$30,000 a year. Bierman offered an amendment to erase that disparity, but then withdrew it without explanation after board President Barbara Kaufman objected.

Kaufman said the current aides had graduate and law degrees, so new staffers could be assigned work that required less education; therefore, they would be less deserving of the higher salary.

Regardless, the new low-budget City Hall staff would still out-earn the supervisors themselves. Under the City Charter, supervisor is a part-time job that pays \$24,000 a year.

The new hires come on top of four new legislative analysts the board added to its department last month when it passed this year's budget. The analysts, who will earn from \$50,000 to \$82,000, will work for the entire board on policy and legislation at an overall cost of \$300,000.

## Machete swinger rescues his mom

### Attacks father and son as they apparently invade home, hacks off parts of pair's fingers

By Donna Horowitz  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

RODEO — A machete attack left an Oakland man and boy minus parts of three fingers after they apparently broke into the home of a family they knew and started attacking them.

The man, Jeffrey Sykes, 41, of Oakland allegedly was hitting the mother of the family in the head with a hammer when her son went into his bedroom, retrieved a machete and came out swinging, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Sgt. Rich Dussell said Monday.

Jamell Richardson, 18, who came to the defense of his mother, Renee Richardson, 39, whacked off two of Sykes' fingers and one of the 15-year-old's fingertips.

#### Hospitalized

Both went to Highland Hospital in Oakland after the 1 a.m. attack

Monday.

An American Medical Response ambulance crew gathered the fingers from the home at Beach Point Way and took them to the hospital so they could be reattached.

As to the cause of the attack, Lt. Wayne Willett said Tuesday the sheriff's department still wasn't sure.

Sykes, a onetime boyfriend of Renee Richardson's, had been to the home earlier in the day, Dussell said. Willett said the alleged incident followed an altercation.

#### Motive a mystery

"We don't know what his motivation is — whether it was revenge or whether he had some other type of motivation," said Willett.

Richardson suffered a fractured skull and was treated at Highland Hospital.

Police said Sykes and the boy had come to the house wearing masks and armed with a baseball bat and hammer.

They were arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and burglary.

Sykes was in stable condition at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco, where his fingers had been reattached, said Nursing Supervisor Anne Owen.