

Hairdresser had link to judge

BY CHRISTINE LIAS
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A Los Altos woman who dressed a former Palo Alto police official's hair testified yesterday that a Los Gatos detective she was friendly with arranged to have her drunken-dri-

ving case handled by Judge William Danser. Transferring the case was unusual because Danser, on trial for allegedly fixing tickets, heard cases in San Jose and Anna Marie Keane's Los Altos arrest would usually be handled in the Palo Alto courthouse. But instead of appearing in

Judge Douglas Southard's Palo Alto courtroom, Keane went before Danser after the accused judge called the Peninsula court to arrange the transfer. Southard's clerk testified yesterday. Prosecutors allege the case is a prime

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Surprise witness revealed

Foothill student saw police strike Albert Hopkins



BY SARA GAISER
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A surprise witness whose existence was kept under wraps testified yesterday that he saw one of two Palo Alto police officers hit Albert Hopkins on the knee with a baton after yelling at him to get down on the ground.

Scott Cowger, a 20-year-old Foothill College student, said he recognized Hopkins as his former baseball coach, but considered the man an acquaintance, not a friend.

"He was kind of intense," Cowger said on the witness stand inside Judge Diane Northway's courtroom in the North County Courthouse in Palo Alto.

Cowger went to police shortly after the July 13 incident last year. Yesterday marked the first time he has spoken publicly about the beating. Until yesterday, his mere existence wasn't common knowledge.

Cowger testified at a preliminary hearing to determine if officers Craig Lee, 40, and Michael Kan, 25, will stand trial for the alleged assault of Palo Alto resident Albert Hopkins after he refused to show identification or comply with orders.

The officers, who initially contacted Hopkins as a possible suspicious person after he was seen sitting in his parked car, face up to three years in prison if convicted. The two officers are back on duty and Hopkins is \$250,000 richer after settling a civil claim against the city.

Cowger said he saw Hopkins talking to two officers on Oxford Avenue the night of the incident after leaving

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KAN



LEE



HOPKINS

ON THE STAND — Foothill College student Scott Cowger, left, testifies yesterday about witnessing an incident last year where Albert Hopkins claims two Palo Alto police officers beat him. Judge Diane Northway, center, listens to Cowger's response from prosecutor Peter Waite. Officers Craig Lee and Michael Kan face prison if convicted of assault. Daily News illustration by Norman Quebedeau.

Judge's body language irks Quattrone's lawyer



QUATTRONE

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer defending former investment banker Frank Quattrone of Los Altos Hills at his retrial complained yesterday that the judge's body language conveys to jurors that he is hostile to the defense.

U.S. District Judge Richard Owen said he was puzzled by the complaint. He also rejected another defense

claim that he had unfairly interrupted defense questioning of witnesses, saying he was just trying to move the trial along.

The sparring between Owen and defense lawyer John W. Keker came outside the presence of the jury on the third day of Quattrone's retrial on

See RETRIAL, page 37

Council leaning toward voluntary preservation

BY MARK HELFEN
DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Mountain View City Council decided last night to use a carrot instead of a stick when it comes to preserving historic buildings, coaxing property owners with incentives instead of forcing preservation.

In a 4-1 straw poll with council member Rosemary Stasek opposed, council decided to

offer incentives under a new preservation ordinance.

The new ordinance will replace an existing emergency ordinance that expires Friday. Council previously passed an emergency ordinance in response to concerns over development and had to codify the law to make it permanent. The emergency rules preserved older

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FROM PAGE 1

Assembly panel backs plan for gay marriages

SACRAMENTO (AP) — An Assembly committee yesterday approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage in California, although the bill's sponsor said such a "milestone event" didn't change what will be an uphill battle to pass it in the full Legislature.

Assemblyman Mark Leno, a San Francisco Democrat and the bill's author, said it was the first time a legislative body has voted to support gay marriage.

"I saw in the eight aye votes a great pride in the fact that people were standing up for civil rights — not special privileges, but civil rights," Leno said.

The proposal, which would amend the state family code to define marriage as between "two persons" instead of between a man and a woman, was passed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee by an 8-3 vote.

The move comes after months of national debate over the issue, kicked off in November when the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled

that gays and lesbians had a right under the state constitution to marriage. Then in February, the city of San Francisco began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples until it was stopped by the state's highest court.

"I applaud the California Legislature and particularly the Judiciary Committee for recognizing a very simple fact, which is that all families need basic rights and protections to remain strong," said Cheryl Jacques, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights lobbying group in Washington, D.C.

Opponents of the bill said it would contradict California voters, who passed Proposition 22 in 2000, which said the state will only accept marriage between a man and a woman as valid.

The bill is "illegal, unconstitutional and immoral," said Randy Thomasson, executive director of the Campaign for California Families, a group that works to promote what it says are traditional family values.

PRESERVATION

FROM PAGE 1

Mountain View properties. The city hired a consultant who identified 93 historic properties that were included under the emergency ordinance. Owners of these homes were prohibited from making modifications to their property that would change their historic quality.

The voluntary ordinance slated for adoption at a future council meeting offers incentives to property owners to register their homes on a new list. The details of what incentives would be available, and whether they would be enough to entice property owners to register their homes are under review.


"I don't think anyone will be on the list"

said council member Stasek, the lone dissenter last night.

Scott Byer, whose property was on the list of 93 homes originally slated for mandatory control said "this is a different council from two years ago."

According to Paulette Spencer of the Mountain View Neighborhood Preservation Organization, council's stand was influenced by the signatures of 239 property owners in favor of a volunteer ordinance. Spencer's group collected the signatures.

A final decision on the details of the new voluntary ordinance will be made at a later council meeting.



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