

Regionalism

There's been a lot of talk about regional government and how it's key to solving the Bay Area's growth problems. But mostly it has been talk—until now.

The Bay Area Council, a business-backed organization advocating a regional approach to public policy issues, has stepped up its efforts to empower a regional commission responsible for the Bay Area's growth management. The council has embarked on an aggressive campaign to win the support of its plan from businesses and business groups throughout the nine-county area. It even has hired away a specialist in public-sector consulting and strategic planning from Andersen Consulting, who now heads the council's growth management efforts.

Basically, the council's message is this: The Bay Area's economic well-being is threatened by the present system of uncoordinated and haphazard government planning. A complex maze of regulations promulgated by a host of competing and overlapping government agencies adds immeasurably to the cost of doing business here, compels many companies to relocate outside the area and deters others from coming to the Bay Area. Moreover, the area's housing affordability crisis, its transportation woes and its environmental quality are worsening because of a lack of coordinated decision-making.

The council's solution is being carried to Sacramento by state Sen. Rebecca Morgan, who has introduced SB 797 on behalf of the council. The bill, an interim step toward broader regional growth management, would consolidate three existing regional agencies—the Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Metropolitan Transportation Commission—under a newly formed regional commission.

The Republican-led, business-backed proposal seemingly would be a slam dunk for the Wilson administration. It isn't. The governor is cool to the idea. He worries, as do others, that the proposal merely adds yet another layer of government and saps authority from duly constituted local agencies.

The Bay Area Council's plan has a lot going for it, but it will go nowhere without broader political support. A compromise must be reached if the economic vitality of the region is to be maintained.

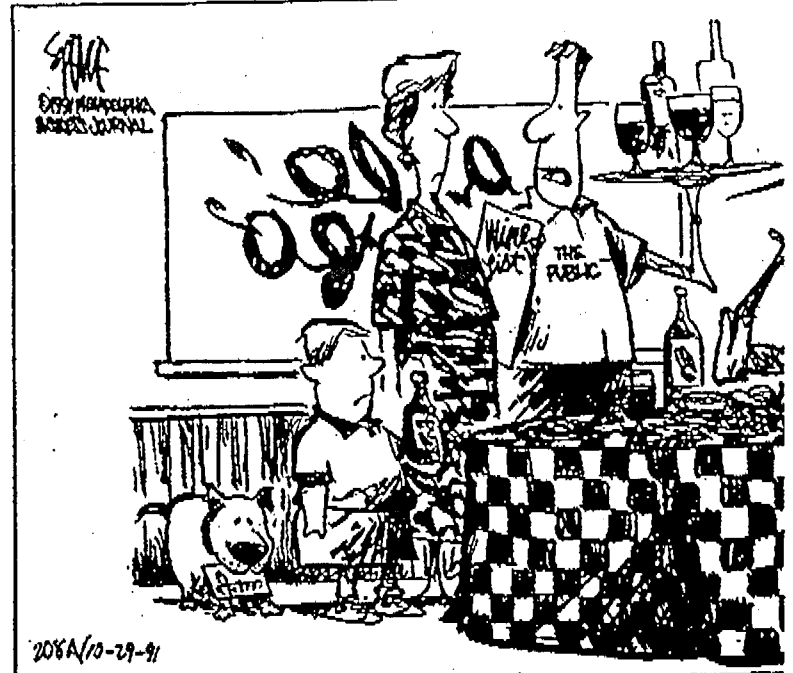
Our team

They've only just begun, yet just about everybody is beginning to write them off.

After a painful 13 consecutive losses, it would be tempting to dismiss San Jose's only professional sports team, the NHL Sharks. To date, the expansion team has resembled a fish out of water, instead of the fearsome sharks of the ice we all expected.

But before you toss out your teal and rush to a nearby sports bar to berate and bemoan the team, keep this in mind: The San Francisco 49ers were a floundering 2-14 in 1979; two years later, they were Super Bowl XVI champs. This isn't to suggest the Sharks will be hoisting the Stanley Cup trophy anytime soon, but don't give up on them yet.

Building a championship team, like building a major league city, takes time.



Rock 'n' roll B-Sche

When you think of entrepreneurs, the names Spork, Jobs and Gates, come to mind. William Whitfield Crane IV does not.

The first three names come tripping off the tongues of engineers and historians; the fourth from the lips of truant officers. In their teens, the first three were probably amusing introverts; in his teens, the fourth was a holy terror.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Brian Fuller

The first three had more classical business training. The fourth is a screaming testament to the fact that entrepreneurial success doesn't always come with a pocket protector or a smooth-talking style.

My nephew, the rock star. My nephew, the only MBA candidate with groupies.

I ventured to one of his classrooms recently, a reborn music hall in Santa Clara called One Step Beyond. In jeans and a sweatshirt, I felt slightly out of place, until the band members' parents showed up. They looked like revivalists who strayed into a Hell's Angels' rally.

The show starts, and there he is, my family's version of Ozzy Osbourne. A former enfant terrible at center stage, grown into a powerful, energetic frame topped with blond locks. The lights go up. The crowd surges to the stage. The cheers sound. The music starts. The ear-

drums shu

Every A
roll star; I
capital of
people to
you've sta
enough. N
the trash c

What N
was marr
sense and
prise that
records.

Along t
have done
boardroom

The bai
band calle
lower billi
by a groc
nature, N
name rec
will use th

The log
from- hell
hand and
enough to
come in w
this night,

The nik
Van Hale.
Crane ha:
titles: "N
hood," a
on love s
air time. I
Marke
"Don't-