

# Bollard Bowling Infuriates Traffic Circle Neighbors

By MATTHEW ARTZ

North Berkeley residents say a truck driver has been taking aim at the Arlington Traffic Circle.

Over the past two weeks, the concrete posts that wrap around the edge of the circle have been repeatedly attacked, said Sara Holmes, board member of Friends of the Fountain and Walk, and the traffic circle's chief caretaker.

Holmes said 13 of the 33 custom-cast posts, known as bollards, have been knocked down and destroyed since July 20.

"It's clearly an intentional act," she said.

Holmes said that careless motorists have occasionally struck the posts, but that the circle has never sustained such extensive damage in a short period of time.

Berkeley Police Spokesperson Joe Okies said the department suspected that the culprit drove a dooley, a vehicle with four back wheels with a raised wheelbase.

"It appears that a truck or trailer cut the turn too sharply and knocked over the bollards," Okies said.

The only evidence of the attacks have been tire marks along the circle, according to Holmes.

"Someone is driving over these things," she said. "It's unfathomable."

Replacing the posts isn't easy or cheap, Holmes said. It took the city about a year to replace 10 posts knocked down from an accident over a year ago, said Holmes.

The custom-made posts cost about \$300 apiece, she said. Since city coffers are low, Holmes said Friends of the Fountain and Walk and other residents are raising money to replace the damaged posts.

Anyone interested in contributing can send donations to Friends of the Fountain and Walk, P.O. Box 8192, Berkeley, 94707. If someone has information about the attacks on the circle, they are encouraged to call the police non-emergency number at 981-5900.

## Correction

An Oakland Unified School District Board member says that she was misquoted in a July 29 story on the Oakland School for the Arts ("OSA Will Now Include Middle School").

In the article, Board Director Alice Spearman is quoted as saying "Even though we have a school of the arts run by Oakland Unified [at Skyline High School], our school doesn't measure up

[to OSA]."

Spearman said that she did not refer to Skyline High School in her statement, but was referring, instead, to the East Oakland School of the Arts, a small school within Oakland's Castlemont High School. Spearman said that she believed the arts curriculum at OSA and the Skyline Performing Arts Academy are "comparable."

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## Police Blotter

By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

### Shoplifter's blade

A security guard at Walgreens in the 2100 block of Shattuck Avenue recovered more than shoplifted goods after he apprehended a 19-year-old man attempting to leave the store at noon Monday.

Possession of a concealed switchblade added a potential felony charge to the boosting bust, and a subsequent records check after police assumed custody revealed the fellow was in violation of his probation from an earlier conviction.

### Groping bandit

A would-be bandit grabbed the breast of a woman customer during an attempted robbery at the Andronico's in the 1500 block of Shattuck Avenue shortly before 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The man is described as a white male between 30 and 40 years of age with light brown/dark blond dreadlocks and long facial hair who stands about 5'6" or 5'7". He was wearing sandals at the time of the foiled robbery, said Berkeley Police spokesperson Officer Joe Okies.

### Pistol and pot

The Berkeley Police officer who stopped a 15-year-old pedestrian for a street-crossing infraction near the corner of Sacramento and Prince streets late Monday evening spotted a suspicious bulge under the youth's sweatshirt.

After the young person admitted he was in possession of marijuana, a quick frisk turned up something more serious—a loaded .38 caliber revolver stuck in his waistband, said Officer Okies.

Because the piece was listed as stolen, he was charged with receiving stolen property and concealing a weapon as well as a marijuana charge, among others.

response by officers ended with both men, ages 29 and 30, in custody. "It was a good stop by our night crew," said Officer Okies.

The not-so-dynamic duo was captured in possession of property believed stolen in five separate burglaries, resulting in a charge of receiving stolen property. Possession of burglary tools added another.

Police so far have linked the property to the original burglary on San Diego Road and a second in the 100 block of Tamalpais Road. More charges may be added as the remaining items are linked to other crimes.

### Cyclist robbed

Police are seeking three bandits, at least one of whom claimed to be packing heat, who robbed a bicyclist of his wheels and his wallet outside the Jack in the Box fast food eatery in the 2100 block of San Pablo Avenue about 9 p.m. Monday.

The victim didn't call police until the following morning.

### Batteries charged

Police booked a 28-year-old man on two battery charges, one of them serious, after an incident in the 2600 block of Parker Street shortly before 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Officer Okies said an off-duty officer from another law enforcement agency had intervened to stop an attack on a 22-year-old when the 28-year-old with the fists turned on him, earning in the process a count of battery on a peace officer in addition to one count for the original battery.

### BART busts

BART police spotted two furtive fellows in the 1300 block of Cedar Street just after 6 p.m. Tuesday, and their suspicions increased when the pair spotted them and took flight.

When the officers caught up with them, they discovered a recently stolen purse and some marijuana.

The pair, an 18-year-old and a juvenile, were booked on suspicion of theft