

Traffic Problems a Tradition

Lack of funding is reason for the college's inaction

Safety Series, Part IV

By Deeann Mathews

Guardsman Staff Writer

City College and the city are considering multiple solutions to traffic problems that stem from the initial design of Phelan Avenue, but action has been deferred due to state budget difficulties.

The roots of traffic difficulties at City College go back a very long way; Phelan Avenue has been a problem since "day one," according to Austin White, historian and professor at City College.

He said the problem with Phelan Avenue is its size. When the avenue was designed in 1940, the city and the Unified School District were both concerned that the boulevard-size avenue would encourage speeding. But the school district wanted a sizeable roadway to maintain the prestige of the college.

Peter Phleger, the top architect at City College, who at that time was famous for having designed the 1939 World's Fair, insisted on a large avenue to complement his design of Science and



Traffic and pedestrian problems with Phelan Avenue are because of the street's size, according to City College historian Austin White.

Conlan Halls. The famous architect felt, in White's words, that a narrower street "would not be the proper setting for his (Phleger's) creation."

In response to the long-standing traffic problems at the Phelan Campus, City College is discussing ideas with the city that include flashing lights embedded in

the pavement of crosswalks, reducing lanes on Phelan Avenue, changing horizontal parking spaces to diagonal, stop signs and relocating bus stops, according to Peter Goldstein, vice chancellor of Administration and Finance.

Frank Markowitz, pedestrian safety coordinator of the Traffic Engineering Division of the Department

of Parking and Traffic, also mentioned sidewalk extensions, pop-up "yield to pedestrian" signs and median islands as measures the City was considering to alleviate problems on Phelan Avenue.

He added that the city was not considering stop signs along the avenue; as a nationally accepted rule, stop signs are not preferred

at mid-block areas where traffic is not always present. He also pointed out that even a simple traffic light would be very costly — \$100,000 — but that there was a possibility that a light will be placed at the entrance/exit to the Reservoir.

Another measure under consideration is the idea of having pedestrian-controlled lights along Phelan Avenue. White stated that a study done by the city indicates that a system of lights whereby a pedestrian would immediately gain a green light by pressing a button would produce too great a reduction in the flow of traffic.

However, Annette Rappleyea, chair of City College's Parking and Transportation Subcommittee, mentioned the idea of a signal that, when activated, would not show green for about 30 more seconds, allowing a group of pedestrians to cross and stopping the tendency of pedestrians to cross in trick-

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Chinatown/North Beach Site Closer to Construction

New campus to open in 2007 according to district timeline

By John Davis

Guardsman Staff Writer

Construction has been given the green light for City College's new Chinatown North Beach "state-of-the-art" campus.

With the passage of last November's bond measure, and after years of intense interest and lobbying, the new Chinatown campus will become a reality, according to Bob Siegel, chair of the New Building Committee.

"If things continue to go favorably, we're looking forward to a new campus by 2007," said Siegel, who teaches English as a Second Language at the Chinatown North Beach site.

Voters approved approximately \$45 million, expecting that the state will contribute \$30 million toward the first phase of multi-project plans for City College.

Siegel said the state is helping to keep the project on track.

"With the Governor's (support), we are moving forward nicely at this point and by fall of 2002 we (should) hire a principal architect to work with us," he said.

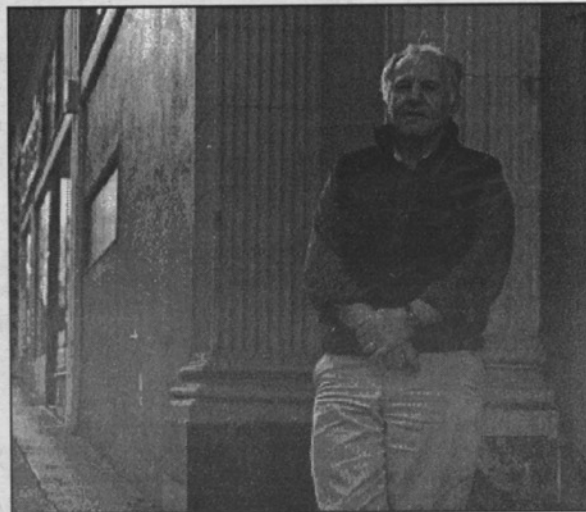
An architect will be selected by a 12-member hir-

ing committee (pending final approval of the City College Board of Trustees), with seven members appointed by City College and five by the Friends of Columbo Building.

A legal settlement was reached with the Friends of Columbo to ensure City College preserves the structure of the Columbo Building.

The agreement requires any new buildings to be set back of and adjacent to the existing, historic building.

The new campus will consist of about three multi-colored structures housing the entire Chinatown North Beach site in one central location.



Bob Siegel, who teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Chinatown Campus has waited on funds from the city and state for campus improvements.

Photo by Marissa Brownell