POTPOURRI
by Cheryl Brodsky

My message today is a potpourri. According to the dictionary, “potpourri” means a mixture of things, especially a musical or literary medley. This article is definitely not musical and it’s hardly literary, but I have used poetic license (even though this isn’t poetry) and call it a potpourri of issues pertinent to residents of Hiller Four. Another definition of potpourri is a mixture of dried things that scent (smell up?) a room. That may be a better description of this article.

YOU AINT NOTHIN’ BUT A HOUND DOG

Most pet owners adore their pets and many of us think of them as members of our family. Just as there are laws by which we must abide, there are laws that apply to our hirsute four-footed friends. Some of these laws are for the protection of our dogs and some are for the well being of our neighbors and our community. You may not agree with all of the rules, but as a resident of Hiller Four and of the City of Oakland, you must abide by them.

You probably know that the City of Oakland mandates that all dogs over 4 months of age be registered, licensed, and have current rabies shots. Did you know that they must also be microchipped and that their microchip numbers must be registered with Oakland Animal Services? I’m sure that you know that Oakland has leash laws and that animals are not permitted to run free. Did you know that the law also states that the leash cannot be more than 6 feet in length? This law was clearly enacted by dog-haters. How can you sniff out the most fragrant spots on a 6-foot leash? I’ve never heard of anyone being fined for using a long leash but I did hear that a resident in the North Hills area was walking her dog on a retractable leash and an unleashed pit bull attacked her dog. Thankfully her dog is fine, but when she asked the City of Oakland to intervene the City, in its infinite wisdom, said that because her dog was out of compliance (on a retractable leash that was longer than 6 feet) they wouldn’t get involved. Huh????

The Hiller Four rules regarding pets in large part mirrors the Oakland laws but there are some additions. Hiller Four requires that the owner of a dog pick up and remove any waste introduced by their dog. Contrary to popular thinking, this is not good fertilizer for our plants. In fact, the additional cost to all of us because of damage that dog waste has done to our landscaping has not been insignificant. It is a good idea that every time you get a plastic grocery bag or newspaper bag, you put it in your outside utility closet and whenever you walk your dog, automatically grab a bag. Please check the WWW.HHIV.ORG website for all up to date pet rules.
As you have probably heard, reductions in the Oakland Police Department have necessitated that certain crimes be reported on line, rather than by calling 911. The following crimes should be reported at [www.oaklandpolice.com](http://www.oaklandpolice.com), (click on the “submit a crime report” icon on the left-hand side of the screen):

- Lost property
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Vehicle burglary
- Vehicle tampering
- Residential burglary (report for insurance purposes, not to request a police investigation)
- Identity theft
- Annoying and harassing phone calls (for stalking and immediate, life-threatening calls continue to call 911)
- Barking dogs
- Violation of restraining order, if the order is on file and has been served
- Report a runaway, if the runaway is not considered at risk
- Violation of a court order (for example, child custody order)

To report other non-urgent crimes, call the department’s non-emergency line at: (510) 777-3333 and listen to the recorded options. Hit “0” to be connected to a dispatcher.

For crimes in progress continue to call 911 from a stationary phone (“land line”) or (510) 777-3211 from a cell phone. It is a good idea to program this number into your cell phone. If you call 911 from a cell phone it will be routed through a central dispatcher who must then figure out where to direct the call and valuable time will be lost.

**For Medical Emergencies, Do Call 911**

We hope that you will never need this information, but the reality is that a year doesn’t go by that several residents of Hiller Four don’t have medical emergencies. For your safety and that of your loved ones:

If you are having a medical emergency, call 911. Use your land line, rather than your cell phone, if possible. You don’t want your call routed around the state before it reaches the proper party. If you think that the medical emergency may be a heart attack or a stroke (where time is of the essence) **always** call 911 rather than driving the patient to the hospital in your own car. Patients who arrive at an emergency room in an ambulance get seen faster than people who “walk in.” Paramedics on the ambulance can give the patient an EKG on the spot and will know if the problem is a heart attack and can start treatment immediately. The paramedics will also get you to the best place for treatment of the problem, which is not necessarily the closest hospital. Alta Bates Hospital, which is the closest hospital to HILLER FOUR, sends its serious cardiac cases to Summit Hospital and that is a better place to go if there is concern about a heart.

**My God! What is That Foul Odor?**

A few residents in Hiller Four have had sewer lines back up and the clog has not been in their own plumbing but in the pipes that go under common areas. So far this has occurred only on the downside of Schooner Hill where roots from the landscaped hillside have grown into the pipes. If this happens to you and the problem isn’t a clog in your own plumbing, please call a Board member to report the problem. Research has been done on cost effective repairs. More importantly, if the problem has originated under common areas the HOA will pay for the repair if you have obtained prior authorization from the Board.
The Oakland Police report that auto burglaries are on the rise in the hills. Keep cars locked and empty of valuables. Better yet, use your garage. For everyone’s safety, vehicles cannot be parked overnight on one of the private Hiller Four streets.

In July, the Oakland Police Department laid off 80 officers due to the ongoing budget crisis. As a result, police officers can no longer respond to most non-violent crimes. We are effectively on our own. For those unaware, there have been a number of crimes reported in our area in the past year.

The most organized way for us to protect ourselves and our property, is to set up Neighborhood Watch Groups. To effect this, we have set up training for our HHIV residents on two successive Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM at the Hiller Highlands County Club.

At the first meeting on October 27th, an Oakland police officer will instruct us in how to improve home security and personal safety, and at the second meeting on November 3rd the topic will be how to recognize and pass on information regarding suspicious activity.

There was a sign-up sheet for this training at the Fall Social on Sunday, September 12th. If you missed signing up then, you can email me to register at rosemarypaterson@comcast.net. We need at least one person from every household to attend each meeting for this plan to work most effectively. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

- Rosemary

CRIME WATCH
by Rosemary Patterson

“I HAVE AN AFFECTION FOR A GREAT CITY. I FEEL SAFE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF MAN, AND ENJOY THE SWEET SECURITY OF THE STREETS” - HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

This Bulletin only gets published if people write the articles and do the editing and layout. We thank the Barrs for their hard work on the Bulletin in the past but they have retired from the job and we need a new Editor in Chief. We need someone who can tell us what’s wheat and what’s chaff. Why start in the mail department when you can start at the top? We also need people with computer skills to do the layout and we need people to write articles that are pertinent to Hiller Four residents. Please contact Mary Ellen Smee (mesmee22@aol.com) or me (clbrodsky@sbcglobal.net) for more info. We give Bob Kuzma a four-gun salute and a gigantic “thank you” for doing the layout in the interim.

- Cheryl

“THE SLOGAN OF PROGRESS IS CHANGING FROM THE FULL DINNER PAIL TO THE FULL GARAGE.” - HERBERT HOOVER

“A EDITOR IS ONE WHO SEPARATES THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF AND PRINTS THE CHAFF.” - ADLAI STEVENSON

Oakland Police 510-777-3333 (non-emergency)
Oakland Police 510-777-3211 (emergency)
Oakland Fire 510-444-1616
Berkeley Police 510-981-5911

In case of an emergency, use the appropriate number above. Your 911 call goes to the CHP dispatch center in Vallejo, which is then routed to the proper agency. By dialing 911 you can cause delays in a response to your emergency.
BENTLEY SCHOOL
by Sam James

“I NEVER LET SCHOOLING INTERFERE WITH MY EDUCATION.” - MARK TWAIN

For those HHIV residents who would like to avoid congestion around the Bentley School, you are already aware of the morning drop-off and afternoon pickup times. The following is a memorandum we received from the school concerning school activities that might result in congestion at other times.

-Mark

Memorandum
To: Neighbors for a Safe Hiller Highlands/NLC
From: Devereaux Smith, Bentley School
Date: August 17, 2010
Re: Scheduled Hiller Campus Dates + Parking Arrangements and Anticipated Guests

Dear Neighbors, enclosed please find an updated schedule for Hiller Campus events for the 2010-2011 school year. Please note that there is only one change from the recent version: The Grades 3-5 Back to School night has been moved from September 9 to September 16. We are hoping that this will preserve our use of an evening event, given we are providing the 30 day notice.

Thank you in advance,
Devereaux Smith

Note to Bentley Community: Dates affecting the after-hour or weekend events of the Hiller Campus cannot be added without the written permission of Wendi Berardi, Director of Traffic & Safety Programs, ext. 2411. All others, direct written inquiries to: cuphotline@bentleyschool.net.
TREASURER’S REPORT
by Gordon Seligson

“IF YOU THINK THAT NOBODY CARES IF YOU’RE ALIVE, TRY MISSING A FEW HOA PAYMENTS.” – ANONYMOUS

Total Assets/Liabilities as of September 8, 2010 are $373,538.67, of which $343,548.89 are reserve funds. A three CD “ladder” has been created with the majority of the reserve funds, with an average interest rate of 1.67%. The only recent “out of the ordinary” expense is $4,630 to resolve a sewer backup situation under the common area, which is the responsibility of the Association under section 5.6.4 of the CC&Rs. Please contact me if you want copies of the current financial reports (i.e. Balance Sheet and Income & Expense Statement) or have any questions.

Two units are each past due for two quarterly assessments; late charges and interest are being assessed.

The Board will consider the 2011 budget at the September meeting and adopt the budget in November, following which the information and payment coupons will be distributed to each owner. The first draft of the Reserve Study update was returned to Applied Reserve Analysis for various corrections. The Board will review the document when it is received, after it is accepted the summary pages will be posted on our website www.hhiv.org

- Gordon

PARKING REMINDER
by Dick Saalfeld

YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY ACTUALLY COMPLIMENTED ME ON MY DRIVING TODAY. THEY LEFT A LITTLE NOTE ON THE WINDSCREEN, IT SAID “PARKING FINE.”

- TOMMY COOPER

Please remember that the following parking rules are expected to be complied with in the fullest spirit by all residents and their guests:

Residents must park their first two vehicles in their garage. If they have a third vehicle, it must be parked on their driveway to the fullest extent possible, except that parking on the street is permitted for no more than 5 hours in any 24 hour period. In no case is parking on the sidewalk or curbs permitted, except where it is part of a driveway apron.

Residents with vehicles that cannot be parked in their garage or on their driveway must park those vehicles outside of Hiller Four. Parking of resident’s vehicles in the Guest Parking area is not permitted at any time.

Visitors may park on our private streets, but not to exceed 5 hours in any 24 hour period. Visitors may park in Guest Parking between 49 and 57 Schooner Hill up to 72 hours.

Violators are subject to fines and towing.

If you have any questions concerning these rules, please call Dick Saalfeld at 843-1088 before taking any action that might be in breach of the rules.

- Dick

FALL SOCIAL

With an attendance of over 60 residents, great weather, good food, and an interesting and informative program, it seems the social was a success. Thanks to the many people who helped with set-up, food, clean-up, and the program. You all reflect our wonderful community.
ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL
by George Innes

“A DOCTOR CAN BURY HIS MISTAKES, BUT
AN ARCHITECT CAN ONLY ADVISE HIS CLIENTS
TO PLANT VINES.” - FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

2010 ACC INSPECTION
& RAILING PAINT
INFORMATION

The 2010 inspection of the exterior of the homes in Hiller Four was completed in June and reports to individual homeowners were distributed in July. The ACC and the Board appreciates your prompt attention to any corrective action items noted on your report.

Overall, the homes look good. As is typical in our annual inspections the most frequent comments related to repainting. The condition of the paint on the balcony and entry railings was noted on a number of units. Since this seems to be a recurrent issue I thought it may helpful to provide a little background on the blue railing paint we recommend in our Architectural Rules.

During the post-firestorm rebuild most of the railings were painted with an oil-based paint which tended to turn chalky in 2 – 3 years requiring frequent repainting. We did some research into paint material that would, when properly applied, have the potential to look good for a longer period of time and withstand the weather conditions. We found an acrylic industrial finish material which has turned out to be very durable for those homeowners who have used it. It’s called: Pittsburgh Paints Industrial Interior/Exterior Semi-Gloss Acrylic Metal Finish, Deep Rustic Mixing Base 7-377. Pursel Quality Paints carries this material and has the color formula on file, “Ink, D 120”, along with the other official exterior colors used in Hiller Four. (Please see Appendix A [Paint Rules/Information] on the Hiller Four website www.hhiv.org for more information.)

One down-side to this material is that, as an industrial finish, it only comes in gallons. So depending on how many railings you have on your unit, the painter may have plenty of left over paint. However, properly stored, it should last for future touch-up work.

As I think we’ve all learned over the years, in addition to using good material, good preparation work is the key to a good and durable paint job. In the case of the railings, they should be lightly sanded to rough the surface (so the primer coat will bond), rusty areas scraped, etc. A primer should be applied and then the regular paint. If the acrylic product we recommend is used, the primer should be acrylic (according to the folks at Pursel) so that the final coat will bond well. Your painter should know what’s required, but it never hurts to review with him/her before the job begins.

AWNINGS AND SUN PROTECTION DEVICES

The homes, the landscape and good neighbors make our community a great place to live. As a Common Interest Development we have a framework for the functioning and administration of our community, called the CC&R’s. Pursuant to the CC&R’s we have developed Rules aimed at maintaining the homes, the landscape and positive living environment of the community. Of necessity, this means some constraints designed to maintain continuity of style and an aesthetically appealing environment while considering the interests of the homeowners. The Association’s Architectural Rules were established with these considerations in mind.

Given the foggy and cool summer we’ve had, the matter of awnings hasn’t necessarily been top of mind, but an area of confusion in this connection arose prompting this item to provide some clarification. Let me start with the statement from our Architectural Rules regarding awnings and other sun protection devices:
Exterior awnings are Sunbrella fabric and the fabric colors are coordinated with the paint scheme assigned to the unit (See Appendix A for paint scheme information):

a) Paint Scheme A – Awning Fabric color: #4628 – Toast
b) Paint Scheme B - Awning Fabric color: #4633 – Linen
c) Paint Scheme C - Awning Fabric color: #4630 - Cadet Grey

2. Awning hardware is to be anodized bronze.

3. A recommended resource is ACME Awning Company, San Leandro.

4. Owners who propose to add an awning or any other exterior sun protection device must submit a request for prior ACC approval.

5. Owners wishing to replace an existing awning must contact the ACC first to confirm correct fabric color.

Under the Architectural Rules homeowners are permitted to install retractable awnings subject to fabric color and hardware requirements, as outlined above. Retractable sunscreens have also been approved, subject to the dark color hardware requirements. One of the main characteristics of the approved retractable awnings or sunscreens, from an aesthetic stand point, is that when not in use, the umbrella and hardware retract and become minimally visible.

Use of large free standing umbrellas, which would essentially be used as substitutes for a regular retractable awning, would also require prior authorization from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). The examples of such devices we’ve encountered have high metal frames (that extend above the eave line of the home) with the fabric suspended from the frame. In the unfurled state the fabric hangs in such a way as to be very visible. This element, in addition to the relatively large and visible frame, are not consistent with the aesthetic characteristics offered by regular retractable awnings, and thus would generally not be approved by the ACC. Unfortunately in a recent situation, two such umbrellas were placed on a balcony without prior ACC involvement, because it was not clear to the homeowner that prior approval would be required for free standing devices of this size and scale. Hopefully this will clarify the requirement to contact ACC regarding any request to consider using such umbrellas as a substitute for regular awnings.

As part of the customary accessories sometimes placed on balconies (and visible rear decks on some homes) homeowners often have deck chairs, end tables, planters, etc. Sometimes patio tables equipped with a collapsible umbrella are used, with the umbrella affording some shading for anyone seated at the table. These umbrellas are reasonably compact in profile, scale and height, with relatively low visibility when collapsed. These accessory items would not normally require ACC involvement unless they presented unusual aesthetic issues.

If you’re ever in doubt about visible items on the exterior areas of your home please do not hesitate to contact the ACC for assistance or clarification. Thanks for your cooperation.

SOUNDS OF PROGRESS: REMEMBER YOUR NEIGHBORS

We live in a great community and we’re often considered a quiet neighborhood. However it only takes the arrival of the UPS or FedEx truck to remind us how much sound reverberates in our densely packed area with relatively narrow streets. When we have work done on our homes the “sounds of progress” in the form of noise from machines, hammering (exterior and interior), and other noise or vibration generating activity can affect our near-by neighbors.

We can’t get this progress (maintenance / remodel / replacement) without these sounds, so that’s a given. However when you’re planning to have work done that will likely cause some noise or disruption it is helpful to advise neighbors that there will be some sounds from the activity and particularly indicate the approximate duration (1 day, 2 days, etc) so they’ll be advised ahead of time as to what to expect. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

- George
DO YOU HAVE SECURITY CAMERAS OUTSIDE YOUR HOME?

We are aware that a number of residents in Hiller Four have installed security cameras outside their homes. We would like to maintain a list of homes that have installed video surveillance cameras so that if there is any criminal activity in the neighborhood, your neighbors and the Oakland Police Department can review your video transmissions to assist in solving the crime. Please e-mail Cheryl Brodsky (clbrodsky@sbcglobal.net) with your name and address. Thank you.

KEEP THE WILDLIFE WILD

There was a wonderful article in the last issue of this Bulletin about the foxes who had taken up residence on the hillside behind Schooner Hill and Captains Cove. Since then, the foxes have been seen numerous times and clearly like Hiller Four as much as we do. Please remember that these non-voting residents of Hiller Four may be fun to watch, but they are wild animals. They are becoming more brazen and approaching homes and decks and seem to have lost their fear of people. It is very important that you do not feed them or leave food out for them. It is not good for them and their hunting abilities, they may carry disease, they may injure our pets but more importantly, the food that has been left out for these cute bushy-tailed residents has been attracting other nonvoting members of our community—RATS!

SUN UMBRELLAS ON DECKS—LOVE EM OR HATE EM?

Some residents have installed sun umbrellas of various sizes, colors and designs on their front and/or rear decks. Do you like these or do you feel that they detract from the appearance of the neighborhood? There will be a discussion at the next Board meeting on November 17, 2010 (7:00 PM at the Highlands Country Club), as to whether the architectural rules should be changed to set concrete parameters for these sun shades, and if they set these parameters, what they should be. If this is a topic that you have strong feelings about, come to the meeting and voice your opinion. This is after all, your association.

HAVE YOU USED ANY GOOD PAINTERS, CONTRACTORS, ELECTRICIANS, SOLAR INSTALLERS, ROOFERS, GARAGE DOOR INSTALLERS ROOFERS, PLUMBERS, OR HANDYPerson (ETC.) LATELY?

The architectural control committee keeps a list of service providers that have satisfied your very picky neighbors. If you need work done on your home, contact George Innes and he may be able to give you a list of people who have done this work in the neighborhood along with the names of the people for whom they worked. As summer draws to an end we’ve noticed that a lot of you have been busy getting painting and other work completed before the rains come. Please tell George who did your work so he can add those people to his list. Put a brief note in the 30 Schooner Hill mailbox addressed to George and let him know who you would recommend to your neighbors.
**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**

by Janet Saalfeld

“THE IMPERSONAL HAND OF GOVERNMENT CAN NEVER REPLACE THE HELPING HAND OF A NEIGHBOR.” - HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!**

We have several new neighbors to welcome! Clipper Hill has two new owners. Ramin Khashayar has purchased #1 CH. Miki, Chihaya and Tomoko Nyunoya are the renters who are living there. Farewell and best wishes to Florence and Andy Wong who lived at #8 CH and welcome to the new owner Pat Kubanis. Janis and Dick Stephenson have purchased #68 Schooner Hill and are in the process of renovating it. We hope to meet all of our new residents soon and more to come next month after they all have moved in.

**PORTRAIT OF A VOLUNTEER: PAULY LANGGUTH**

Hard working, knowledgeable, energetic, talented, a wonderful neighbor and lots of fun! All of these words help to paint the portrait of Pauly Langguth. Pauly and Tom moved here in 1988, lost all in the Oakland Firestorm and then re-built and moved back to Hiller Four. Pauly has worked with the Children’s Home Society in Oakland and more recently, until her retirement last January, she worked in theatre at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre in Hayward. Her husband Tom also works in theater at TheatreWorks on the Peninsula, designing and building sets.

Pauly has held every possible job on the Board at Hiller Four as President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and has served as head of many committees. She works on every social event helping plan, shop, set up, cook (her meatballs are fabulous!) and clean up. Currently, she is making sure we are well prepared for the Big One when it comes, as she chairs the CORE committee.

Tom isn’t the only artistic Langguth. Pauly is also very artistic and has a treasure trove of supplies needed to carry out her wonderful ideas, right in her home!

Pauly has one daughter, Lori who lives and works in the Bay Area.

Thank you Pauly, for the generosity of your time and commitment to all of us in Hiller Four.

- Janet

**STREETS & LIGHTS**

by Gordon Seligson

Gills Electric has resolved the non-working street lamp next to 21 Captains Cove but now the street lamp across from 23 Captains Cove has begun flickering. Gills will replace the ballast on that lamp. It is probable that the ballasts on all of our street lights have reached the end of their life expectancy and we will seek estimates to replace them all.

The Board approved Dryco’s bid for cleaning and sealing cracks in the street asphalt. This should help extend the time between repaving. The work will be done in late September or early October and notice will be sent to all residents about the schedule of the street work and any restrictions on driving and parking on the street.

Bet you think we couldn’t think of anything humorous to say about streets and lights? You’d probably be right but here it goes, anyway…

A drunk was on his knees beneath a street light, evidently looking for something. A passer-by offered to help. “What is it you have lost?” he asked. “My watch,” replied the drunk. “It fell off when I tripped over the pavement in the street.” The passer-by joined in the search but after a quarter of an hour, there was still no sign of the watch. “Where exactly did you trip?” asked the passer-by. “About half a block up the street,” replied the drunk. “Then why are you looking for your watch here if you lost it half a block up the street?” The drunk said: “Because the light’s a lot better here.”
Following our successful CORE I & II trainings in May, a second set of trainings was held on July 15 and July 22. There were twenty-two attendees (eighteen from Hiller Four and four guests from other Hiller phases) at these second trainings, making a total of thirty-eight of our local residents who have recently had the basic training for emergency preparedness. We are very pleased to report that we already have ten of the thirty-eight signed up for the four-part CORE III classes. We realize that this is quite a time commitment; however, it will result in all of us feeling better about being prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws at us next. Our special thanks to Rosemary Paterson, who opened her home for these trainings, and to Ed Ono, who served as our Trainer. Where would we be without generous volunteers?

Corresponding nicely to the timing of our CORE classes, the City of Oakland and the Oakland Fire Department distributed our Annual Inspection Notice and a brochure, *Homeowners Checklist-How To Make Your Home Fire Safe*. They also enclosed a DVD for each home that discusses dangers and safety measures that are appropriate to our situation in the Oakland Hills. We hope that you took a few minutes to watch the DVD. If not, please do so soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to suggest that, if you haven’t already done so, you start a special binder for all of your materials relating to Emergency and Disaster Preparedness. It is important to have all of this information in one place.

- Tom & Pauly

**Important Reminder**

In the event of a power failure, do you know how to open your garage door? Read the manual that came with your opener, or find the manual on the company’s website, then put the directions on your garage wall. This may save your life or, at the very least, your car! Do it now. Ok, do it tomorrow.... but no later. For those of you with a Genie door start with [www.geniecompany.com](http://www.geniecompany.com). Remember that the size and weight of these doors usually makes it necessary to have two people available to raise them.
Hiller Four Board of Directors 2010-2011

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Special thanks to Mike Brodsky for providing photos.
PERCEPTION

In Washington, DC, at a Metro Station, on a cold January morning in 2007, this man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, approximately 2,000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After about 3 minutes, a middle-aged man noticed that there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds, and then he hurried on to meet his schedule.

About 4 minutes later: The violinist received his first dollar. A woman threw money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk.

At 6 minutes: A young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

At 10 minutes: A 3-year old boy stopped, but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head the whole time. This action was repeated by several other children, but every parent – without exception – forced their children to move on quickly.

At 45 minutes: The musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of $32.

After 1 hour: He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed and no one applauded. There was no recognition at all.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth $3.5 million dollars. Two days before, Joshua Bell sold-out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged $100 each to sit and listen to him play the same music.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell, playing incognito in the D.C. Metro Station, was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people’s priorities.

This experiment raised several questions:

* In a common-place environment, at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty?
* If so, do we stop to appreciate it?
* Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made . . .

How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?