

GX Internal Company Newsletter

early november 1999

"We are 100% of the way there"

The GX Internal Newsletter knows you are burning with curiosity like we were so we snuck over to the new office and put together a report for you:

THE NEW SPACE

GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT :

Terence points to the new office building. The Deli is a 10 minute walk, and the Marina Bay Apartments are a quick 10 minute swim. Just to the right of the Deli is 580 and Richmond at large.



DIRECTIONS :

Merge onto I-80 E.
Take the I-580 exit on left towards RICHMOND/
SAN RAFAEL.
Take the MARINA BAY PKWY/S 23RD ST exit.
Turn RIGHT onto S 23RD ST.
(you'll be heading away from the office, but
rest assured)
Turn LEFT onto CUTTING BLVD.
(and drive through a neighborhood edgier than
West Oakland)
Turn LEFT onto MARINA WAY S.
(right after the Salvation Army where Justin
got a great deal on an old yellow couch)

ALL PHOTOS BY
NAT "BINKY" BALDWIN
Tour Text from
Terence "Nemesis" Wong and
Justin "Hung" Hall
Great White Father: James Mecham
All Thanks and Praises:
Doug the helpful security guy.

James/Thump: The new office space is better than I'd hoped. Our personal tour guide, Doug, should be hired as a security guard when we move in. We may need to buy him a gun though. I don't think his badge will slow down most GX employees.

Highlights: A secure office with bullet-proof glass, bathrooms bigger than our current office on Shattuck, a ladder to the roof (should I bring my water-balloon launcher?), fireplace w/ remote control, sleeping room (!), 2-minute walk to the water, PARKING, it's not Berkeley, those living in the Marina Bay apartments can canoe to work.

Bummers: You have to cross 18 railroad tracks to get there, no EZ slut, no Y, Doug's not included in the deal, rumor has it that there's a shower somewhere in the building--but I didn't see it, need new shocks, it's not Roseville, there's not 200 restaurants within 3 blocks.

General impressions: This place is gonna' really be awesome. It's even better in real life than on paper. Once we knock out a few walls and throw in some cubes it's gonna rock. It's a perfectly suitable habitat and I'm sure many of us will move in and be living there 'round the clock--if we can just find that mysterious, elusive shower!

Terence: My first impression of the office is that it's going to need plenty of work to do, but it really blew me away. I probably have a skewed opinion since we work in this tiny little place right now, but the new place just seemed to go on forever. The "big" room, the 7200 sqft, is really big. There are 22 ft. ceilings, which is pretty high. The offices are nice, big bathrooms, the entrance is cool; all in all I liked it.

The few things I noticed with the current tenants compared to us is that the office really has an "office" feel. Right now our office doesn't really feel like an "office", which I like. Thier

office, with the carpeted cubes, the drop-white ceilings really felt like a stuffy office. I'd much rather have an office that has some atmosphere and character than an office that is stuffy and uptight. I think a good idea would be to change the type of ceiling in the big room to something that has more depth and more character. The last thing I'd want to see is a Joe vs. the Volcano office.

Nat/Binky: After a somewhat lengthy trip to the new office space (we return to a somewhat glowering Joel), I return elated, looking forward to my future with the company. The new office space is a bit out of the way (about four train tracks off the 'main drag,' from the route we first took), but makes use of that distance with a secluded charm. The C building, of which we are to occupy "say the middle third, maybe a little more" (according to our extremely helpful and knowledgeable tour guide Doug), is nestled firmly at the end of a cul-de-sac area, with one other building across the way and two or three more being planned and/or built.

Aside from the impressive entry room, with its remote-controlled gas fireplace, marble-tiled bathroom, and bullet-proof executive office, the office itself is fairly bland. Far from being dissatisfied, though, I am excited at what a potential this place has. We start scheming in every room, thinking back to the floorplan and our own concepts of an ideal office. "We'll just knock down this wall here . . ." is uttered many times. The fourteen foot ceilings in the 'main room' seem grandiose when compared to our current situation; adding visions of contemporary corporate furniture turns the room into a high-tech room that might be described in a few months as "the place where all the magic happens."

Stepping outside to further explore our surroundings is possibly even more

exciting than the building's interior. Here, we see the boardwalk path, overlooking a serene bay. The walkway will lead to a park 'by Christmastime.' There is already a park to be found, though, a short walk away. Perhaps the distance to some of the further restaurants we frequent here in Berkeley is a double helping of munching possibilities; an upscale Italian eatery and a well-stocked deli. We marvel at the deli's bay view and dart board; James is pleased once he finds chilled Lizzard Blizzard drink, and Terrance seems satisfied at the Dole fruit bars. "Not WonderFruit, but it'll do."

There are a variety of transit options, as Doug explains to us. BART is a thirty-minute walk away through a rough neighborhood (he's hoofed it himself), but there's a bus that stops within eyesight of our office that'll take you there. Another nearby bus will transport you to the Ferry, which runs thrice daily. \$5 and a boat cruise later, you'll be on San Francisco's Pier 39, in the heart of the Fisherman's Wharf area. It doesn't sound like an everyday excursion, but holds definite possibility for an interesting outing on a special occasion.

The real special occasion, I'm left thinking, will be our move into the new office. Already excited at the prospect of leaving our cramped surroundings, we emerge exhilarated, ready to move in yesterday.

Justin: The new space is nice. The air is real nice. it smells like ocean a lot of the time, at least outside. You can walk like 1.5 minutes to a very romantic boardwalk. it's strange like that. but you gotta drive through some serious 'hood to get there - it seems rougher than where I used to live (where I was mugged). I wonder if we can find another route to recommend people like VCs and TV crews to drive to our office - it's not a very uplifting introduction. But it does have



JUSTIN :

an out-there feel, meaning we are like in our own world. it's a flatland with plenty of parking. you can walk to get deli food, which is a great relief. and the water/industrial aspect is cool. There's plenty of corporate parks all over the world that don't have the ocean smell and boardwalk nearby. Inside the office - the entryway is surreal, especially the bulletproof conference room. The rest of the place is large, and subdivided into lots of little and large rooms - I'm picturing crazy indoor rubberband gun exercises (coordinated by Rik) where you could have two teams of a dozen total and each person could be somewhere and see no one else. It's large and you can almost get lost. For the first few weeks, before we fill it up, it's gonna be a crazy place, especially after dark. Once you've driven all the way there - you're in GX land. welcome to the jungle. Dropped ceilings - I hate ceiling tiles (I had to replace many soggy jenky ones as a summer job) but at least the ceilings in the main room are 22 feet tall, which has a generous feeling. I think it's going to be fun to go to work there. It's a little far away from the rest of the Bay Area. But if we grow, and if the neighborhood grows and all the poor people are moved forcibly away from our collective prosperity we could end up in a seaside corporate park with an unbelievable 270 degree view, just after we go public. Dare to Dream! Then we could safely walk the 1/2 hour to BART after dark. But we'll all be driving new cars! Hopefully people will still drop by and visit us even though we are very far away on the other side of a scary neighborhood.

JOHN :

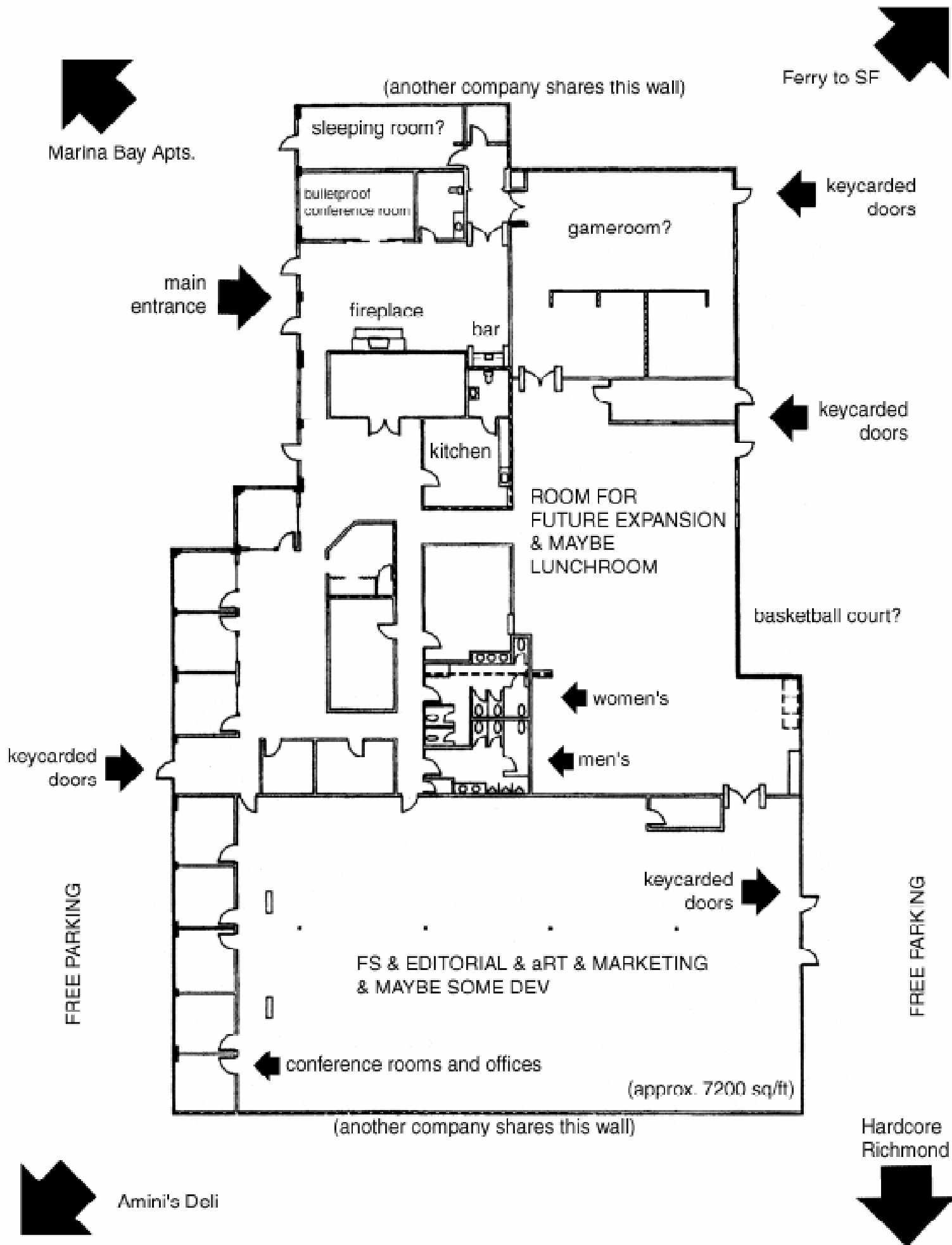
Hey y'all, we're (lyle, mikey, and moi) are in Texas, Round Rock more specifically, and even more specifically, in the, what they call "the WarRoom" in one of Dell's 11 buildings. What I see over here is very intriguing, lots of trucks. Almost as many trucks as ants as far as I can see. They drove the Interstate 35 in search of an exit, which are all named "FM XXX" where the XXX is an integer. By the way, I found out that "FM" is "Farm to Market." It's the road that those darned farmers used to travel up to sell their goods. The Dell building are similar to the building will be moving into. Black painted ceilings, with a dropped-down box with lights on it, outlining the spatial division of a work area. There is a painted line at the top of the ceiling and the walls, in different colors, also adding definition to different work spaces. In between the drop-boxes and the walls, all the networking wires (in bright colors like yellow and orange) are exposed to the inhabitants of Dell. There are a lot of cubes in here, and security is tight. As I write this, a man name "Biggie Brotha" watches over my shoulder. Ouch, he just slap my head! Anyway, we have to wear visitor badges, and like a scarlet letter, we are scrutinize every which way we walk. They have a cafeteria with burgers, cooked food, sandwiches, etc. The large drink costs the same as the small one. Hmmm, go figure. There's a small store in here with bathroom essentials, Dell-branded clothing and accessories, etc. We met Dudley, of "Ask Dudely" from the Support Area of the Dell.com site, check out the cartoon drawing of him. We meet the art guy

who drew the cartoon too. Lots of interesting ideas go on in our heads about recruiting. I think I heard hints of people wanting to visit California. Hmmm. =)

Anyway, to answer Justin's constant "I need answers," I envision an office with light ash wood paneling and aluminum trim. Kind of like those Pottery Barn stores. Lots of natural sunlight, but not too much direct sunlight so that it becomes difficult to look at our monitor screens. the temperature will be ideal... for me, slightly cool. =P Anyway, I'm just kidding, anything is cool. As long as it's flexible to allow noisy and quiet, as well as dark and light areas for work, social, personal, public, etc. Space is nice for us not to feel cramped. Areas to put up resources, books, personal stuff, junk, cds, etc., are nice too, helps tidy up the joint.

Food is an issue, it's like we are moving from a mecca of cultural food choices and entertainment, to an isolated post-industrial semi-suburban area with a potential future. But the reality of it today, it that there's not much there. The closest food institutions will be the 99 Ranch Market, Nations, and the stuff on San Pablo, but we'll have to drive there. So if you don't have access to transportation, you'll have to find a driving buddy. That that's not bad, but yes, fellow gamers, you'll have to talk to someone else other than yourself and your imaginary friends. So what do we do? DVD rentals at John's desk. And Matt W's!!! SLC Punk is one of the best DVDs I have, so is Last Days of Disco. We'll have a kitchen, so you can cook. So bring in your tv dinners, cuz I know you guys and gals can cook. Ok, I'm going to get back to work, here in Texas.

john



WELCOME TO GX...



here you're facing the entry door, behind the security desk. Overhead, a steel mesh ceiling looks cool with fancy Italian light fixtures hanging down. On the right, those glass doors lead to a conference room - doors with bulletproof glass. This used to be the private office of the man who owns these buildings, so it's very Marriot fancy, with extra high-security options! and a fireplace, a gianormous bathroom, not to mention a bar...

Sink, dishwasher, WET BAR
in the lobby
James Mecham getting an early start



the fireplace, coated in cool stone, works by remote control! it's all gas.

A large half-marble tiled bathroom with a standing brass TP holder.
and room to expand!
heck, we're thinking this can hold the whole FS testbed!
Marble = static free





This is inside the men's bathroom obviously. You can see it is pretty large, 4 toilets (one handicapped, in the reflection of the mirror) 3 urinals, and 3 sinks. There's a drain in this bathroom, which used to be part of a shower. James would really like it to be a shower again, obviously why he's smiling. The woman's bathroom was even larger than this (don't ask how we got in), but there's no drain for a shower.

This is the "Large" room, the 7200 sqft. Room that we've been talking about putting most of the current and some future staff in. You can judge the size of the room by looking at the Jabroni in the back. The drop-ceilings are 22' high, even though the real ceiling is 26' high (I think). You can see that the ceiling and lights are very drab, and have that "Joe vs. the Volcano" feel to them. The two doors you see in the back go out to the back parking lot, while the gray archway leads to the company that occupies the other part of the building. I'm sure that they are going to close that door very soon, unless they are arming themselves with rubber band guns.. Off to the left of this picture is a utility closet, and behind this picture are a few 12x12 offices. There's a 6' wall between this room and the offices, with about a 5' walkway in-between the wall and the offices.



This is the kitchen! Obviously the current company didn't use it much, but the way the walls are now there's probably only 20 people that have access to it. Off to the left and behind this picture the kitchen is actually pretty large. It's roughly half the size of our current editorial side of the hall. There's a bathroom off to the left of the fridge, which we hope isn't staying (you can hear just about everything that goes on in there, yuck). A walk in fridge/freezer would be nice, or perhaps a pantry. There's also plenty of room for some real kitchen appliances, like a full range, stove, dishwasher, etc. There are no cabinets either, and easy addition.



This is what the back parking lot looks like, just outside the two doors in the large room. As we learned from Doug, our prolific tour guide, this whole area was a ship-building yard in WWII. The factory off in the distance used to be a converted ship plant that used to be a Ford Motor plant, but has been shut down for a while [and will soon be designer live/work lofts]. Just on the other side of the ex-plant is the bay [and the ferry to SF]. Apparently the lights you see in the picture are on at night, so this lot has good lighting when it's dark. From the back of the building to the concrete island is about 50 yards. [Maybe we'll have a basketball court back here]

Ah this was such a romantic outing, walking along the boardwalk, overlooking the bay... er... I mean this is the boardwalk. If you walk out the front entrance of the new building, there's an identical building facing you. On the other side of that building, is this beautiful boardwalk. The air is very fresh and clean (even better than outside EZ Stop!). It's very quiet and serene, a great place to take a break and reflect on work, life, or think of how exactly the Rock lays the smack down. I think eventually, after they build the new building A, this boardwalk will continue off to the upper right behind that building and over to where a park is being built.



You can take sailing lessons nearby and you can probably canoe back and forth between the Marina Bay Apts. There's no gym nearby that we know of, so watersports are probably the best context specific exercise. Hope there's no syringes in the water!

This is the inside of Armini's deli and bait shop. Yes, you can buy sandwiches and bait for fishing here! Unfortunately, you can't get sushi. They had a good selection of food items, including a disproportionately large selection of wine and beer. They also sell grits, the defining selling point for Nat. The prices are reasonable, seeing that they have a total monopoly on the quickie mart business in Marina Bay.



This is standing on the edge of the boardwalk, looking towards a restaurant and deli. Off to the right is a ton of yachts. You could walk for about 10 to 15 minutes over to the deli and restaurant. What does this mean? We need to get a GX Yacht.

Seriously, the idea of parties on a boat immediately spring to mind as you stroll about the outside of the office. Boat parties! Hell ye-yuh! What a great way to be outdoors and be inebriated. James can chaperone!

This is also inside Armini's deli and bait shop. This is a great room for relaxing and eating while you can over look the yacht harbor (we must get a GX yacht!) and a park (off to the left). It's fairly quiet, comfortable, and you can order food from the front counter here. I foresee many lunches occurring here. Behind where this picture was taken is a regulation felt dartboard!

I wonder if we can run ethernet out here - it's a most tranquil spot to write and relax and unwind the mind.



AMINI'S MENU



A MINIS'
FINE FOOD & DRINKS

Aminis' by The Bay

"WE FILL ALL YOUR NEEDS"

MADE TO ORDER DELI

* DAILY HOT SOUPS

* GROCERIES

* PRODUCE

* FRESHLY GROUND GOURMET COFFEE

* PREMIUM WINES & BEERS

* HARDWARE

* BUSINESS LUNCHEON

* LUNCH BASKETS FOR YOUR DAY SAIL

* BAIT

PHONE/FAX: 620-0550

1950 ESPLANADE DRIVE

MARINA BAY, RICHMOND, CA 94804

Formerly "The General Store At Marina Bay"

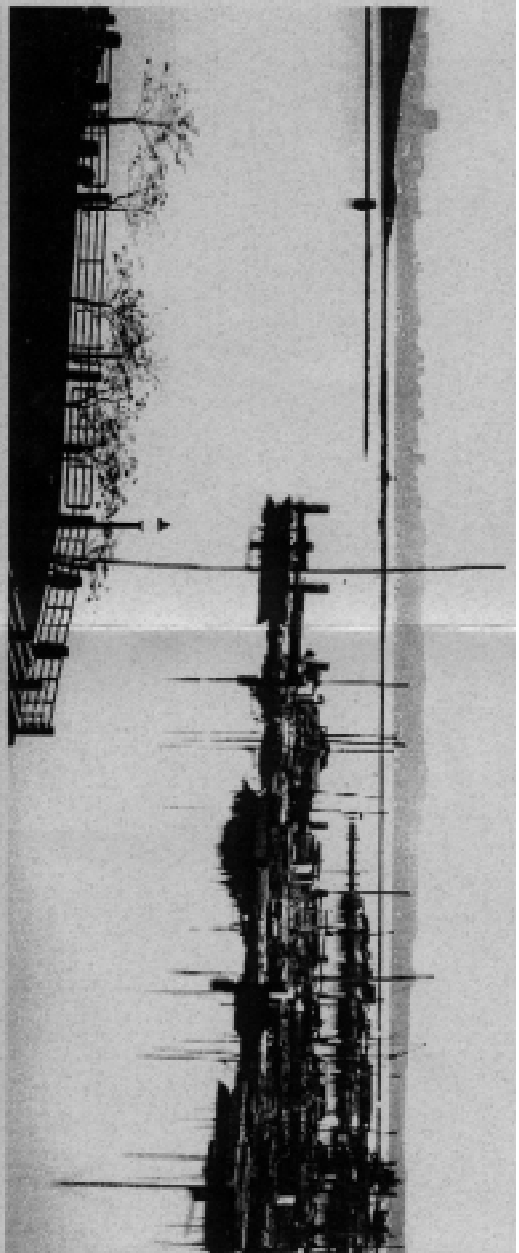
Aminis' by the Bay

Fine Food & Drinks
Fax/Phone: 620-0550

NAME:	<input type="checkbox"/> HERE	<input type="checkbox"/> TO GO	PHONE:
BREAD	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheat	<input type="checkbox"/> Dark Rye
	<input type="checkbox"/> Light Rye	<input type="checkbox"/> Sliced	<input type="checkbox"/> Sourdough
	<input type="checkbox"/> French Roll		
MEAT	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoked Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Salami
	<input type="checkbox"/> Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Corned Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Ham
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mortadella	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastrami	<input type="checkbox"/> Bologna
	<input type="checkbox"/> Liverwurst	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuna Salad	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Breast
	<input type="checkbox"/> (Marinated & Spicy)		
CHEESE	<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey Jack	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheddar	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoked Cheddar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Provolone	<input type="checkbox"/> Swiss	<input type="checkbox"/> American
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cream Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Pepper Cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Mozzarella
CONDIMENTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayonnaise	<input type="checkbox"/> Mustard	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomato
	<input type="checkbox"/> Onion	<input type="checkbox"/> Lettuce	<input type="checkbox"/> Pickles
	<input type="checkbox"/> Avocado	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprouts	<input type="checkbox"/> Dijon Mustard
	<input type="checkbox"/> (30% extra)	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseradish	<input type="checkbox"/> Ketchup
New Items	<input type="checkbox"/> M.B. Burger \$3.45	(10lb. lowfat)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL BEEF: \$2.49		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Dog		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Polish Sausage		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Link Sausage		
	<input type="checkbox"/> French Fries \$1.25	(oven baked)	
**** All Cold Cut Sandwiches \$3.99 - All Cheeses 25c Extra ****			
SALADS: Please Check the Cooler for Available Salads			
.. Ask About our Homemade Soups ..			
Clam Chowder	<input type="checkbox"/> Small \$1.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Med \$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Large \$3.00
Soup of the Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Small \$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Med \$1.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Large \$2.00

Hours: Monday - Saturday
Sundays & Holidays 7:00 to 7:00
7:00 to 6:00

YOUR CHOICE OF SANDWICHES



WE CARRY A WIDE VARIETY OF IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC BEER AND WINE

BEER & WINE

(THIS LIST IS JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT WE HAVE IN STOCK)

BEER

Sierra Nevada
Red Tail
Anchor Steam
Budweiser
Coors
Heineken
Miller
Henry Weinhard's
Michelob
Corona
Pyramid
Beck's
Guinness
Samuel Adams
St. Pauli Girl
Lowenbrau
Paulaner

WINE

Robert Mondavi
Sterling
Kendall Jackson
Glen Ellen
Freixenac
Sutter Home
Charles Crag
Paul Masson
Wente Brothers
Ste. Michelle
B.V.
Clos Du Bois
Souverain
Fetzer
Rodney Strong
Meridian
Talus

GX CLASSIFIEDS

John:

DVD's One-Viewd, Twice Shy:

eXistenZ - Jennifer Jason Leigh

Election - Matthew Broderik, Reese Witherspoon, hot! hot!

Monty Python - Holy Grail

Brand New:

Drugstore Cowboy - Matt Dillon, Heather Graham

NEW SUBSTANDARD RECORDS RELEASE

Only \$12.00

Libertine's full-length debut, "See You In The Next Life"

feature soon-to-be radio hit, "Heartbreak," and "Wish Were Horses."

You can see the reviews and hear samples at: <http://www.mp3.com/libertine/>

See John to buy one. Free Posters.

Here's a new review from THE BIG TAKEOVER - Jack Rabid

Three or four years ago, folks from this group asked me if I might play drums in a band they were starting. Having greatly tired of playing at the time (after 16 years, off and on), I politely declined, saying I was honored they thought of me and I wished them luck. From See You in the Next Life, I missed out on a great time (though with the chops-heavy drummer here, they don't miss me). As it turns out, these guys rock, a mix of basic rock 'n' roll, mod, and punk, with a little glam, that's all about traditional balls out energy, running guitar leads, and floor-tom pounding breaks.

(There's even hand-claps and "c'mon, c'mon, c'mon" passages in "Next Life.") When I say "punk," I mean the better, pre-hardcore variety found in the first album Generation X-ish clipped downstrokes

Sven's Weird Paper Game of the Week:

"Kobolds Ate My Baby!" by Hubris Games - In this role-playing romp, players each control a kobold - short, furry, smelly, goblin-like creatures that are constantly hungry. As these vile creatures, the players raid a peaceful human village in search of a kobold's favorite food: human babies. They'll settle for chickens and cows, though. Once food is acquired, thieving kobolds must try to bring the snacks back to the King, the hungriest of them all, or become the snacks themselves (because, as the rules state, "kobolds taste just like chicken"). Just watch out for Spontaneous Baby Combustion. The only game I've seen that contains humorous recipes and a picture of a chicken smoking a cigarette while flipping you off.

http://www.9thlevel.com/kamb/kobolds_index.htm

And one to grow on:

"Go For Launch!" by Gamers.com - A tribute to our arrival on the web. According to the game site, it's "Learning & Fun All In One! Its like being there! Easy to Play!"

<http://www.goforlaunch.com/> (Sven offers no guarantee that this game is what he claims it is)

- Sven the Ogre

and Johnny Thunders-like leads of the guitar, and the growling just-out of pitch (and we don't care) vocals that recall the young Mike Ness of Social Distortion. And not only do they borrow Iggy's 1969 Stooges "I Wanna Be Your Dog" riff for a verse that sounds like 1981 "Magnificent 7" Clash on "No, Your Enemy," but when they close the LP with "The Sound of THE SAINTS," you just now (it's foreshadowed in the rip-roaring opening of "Volunteer" and "Outside" and the titular reference to "No, Your Product") that they love the first two Saints LPs like everyone should! That the riffs are up to comparison with the young Ed Kuepper, Derwood Andrews, Ness, Thunders, and Joe Strummer, is good. That they're having so much fun is better.