



THE FREE YOU

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Cleanup at Full Circle

General Meeting To Decide

TANGENT RENAMED FULL CIRCLE; SHOULD THE FREE U MOVE IN?

Launched by its first meeting of community supporters on February 1, Palo Alto's old Tangent restaurant, vested with an open, cooperative governing structure, renamed Full Circle and stripped down inside for major remodeling, is driving toward a do-or-die March 1 opening date with urgent appeals for additional small investors and volunteer help.

The "Full Circle" name was suggested by Jon Buckley, as representative of "where we are (on University Circle), where we've been and what we are: an open community, not exclusive." The Great Western Food and Beverage Company placed second in a field of 36 names suggested at the meeting held on the premises and attended by a group of 100 people, half of them from the Free University.

While the community and its interim board of directors is debating priorities for the building, the Midpeninsula Free University is planning to decide in its own open membership meeting February 19 whether all or part of the Free University offices should be moved to Full Circle from Menlo Park. Advocates of the move stress the advantages of a more central location and urge the strongest possible Free U support for Full Circle as a community center, while opponents fear that the move would force curtailment of many of the Free U's vital activities, and would again make the Free U liable to the loss of its office if the Full Circle lease isn't renewed in

a year (an earlier crisis of this sort prompted the purchase of the Menlo Park offices by a Free U member. Pro and con arguments about the move follow this article.)

The community unanimously elected Mark Jensen, the leaseholder, as Full Circle manager, and authorized the hiring of Vernon Gates, former owner of St. Michael's Alley as kitchen and food service consultant. Attorneys James Wolpman, Andrew Cohen and Charles Constantinitis are preparing papers for Full Circle's incorporation as a cooperative. All member will have equal vote, public shares will be sold, and at the urging of several community members, arrangements will be made to provide shares for people unable to afford them (shares are tentatively priced at \$10, but won't be on sale for some time. Additional investment capital is being urgently sought to keep the operation moving until we're incorporated.) The corporate structure will provide the usual limits on the personal liability of the shareholders, but Mark Jensen is still personally responsible for obligations related directly to the lease...specifically the rent, at \$1000 per month for a year.

Interim Board Chosen

To facilitate day-to-day decision making, the community elected an interim board of directors to serve two weeks, and empowered it to make whatever

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administrative or policy decisions which couldn't wait for the second community meeting, scheduled for February 15. The eleven board members are Phil Williams (contractor, Dakota Enterprises), Len Herzenberg (Stanford faculty member), Mark Jensen (electrical engineer and Full Circle manager), John Aron (Free People's Free Music Company and related groups), Debbie Strahm (high school student), Vic Lovell (psychologist and rampant theoretician), Larry Tisler (Stanford Staff and Free U member), Nick Peycon (Free University member), Bruce Pollock (representative of several local political groups), Tim Coburn (Stanford Graduate student), and Robb Crist (Free U organizer and psychodrama leader). The board is directly responsible to the community, and Jensen is directly responsible to the board.

Community Center - Restaurant Incompatible?

The community and its interim board are still trying to reach behind the surface matters of renovation and day-to-day operations to resolve the more fundamental question underlying the project... can a free community center and a moneymaking (though nonprofit) restaurant coexist on the same premises, and be run without conflict by the same group of people? Architect Fred Saas and Jensen have estimated that the facility must clear a monthly minimum of \$9000 in off-the-street income just to meet operating expenses, and stress that food quality must be good, the menu diverse, and the building attractive and the management tight in order to attract the number of customers-including lunch-

Membership Meetings

The regular monthly General Meeting of the Midpeninsula Free University, open to all registered members with equal vote, will be held at Full Circle, 117 University Avenue, Palo Alto, February 19 at 6:30 P.M. A second, special general meeting, will be held at 6:30 P.M. February 26 at the Free University offices, 1061 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, to take up whichever of the following agenda items aren't dispatched at the first meeting:

1. Discussion of Grassroots, with a film.
2. Shall the Free University move to the Full Circle?
3. Shall Spring registration fees be raised or lowered?
4. People's Health Center: discussion of a survey on community health needs and finances.
5. Shall the Free U organize itself into departments?
6. The Free University auction - another discussion.
7. Free U relations with high-school age people.

eating businessmen -necessary for sound operation and survival. In this vein, many community members are urging that steps be taken to prevent Full Circle's assuming a possibly restrictive image as "just another part of the Free University." Several others are expressing concern that too much emphasis on "making it a business" will destroy the open character of the building as a true community center, available to anyone to do virtually whatever he wants there. One problem affecting debate on this problem is that few community members have ever been deeply involved in the restaurant business and have had difficulty evaluating the

various comments of the people who have. Gates, in particular, placed heavy stress on the need for a tight restaurant operation, noting that "over 15 years, this location has had a 100% failure quotient. Most restaurants, to be successful, are designed around a strong personality, not a democracy...the talented and the untalented blend into a mediocrity." Several community members, in turn, argued that the very fact that Full Circle is a democracy will generate the business and community interest that its predecessors lacked. The problem will be taken up in more detail at forthcoming community meetings.

Beer License

Prior to the community meeting, Jensen applied for a beer license in his own name, citing its necessity to financial success. Consulting architects have been instructed to redesign the restaurant area to lessen the problem of minors getting at the beer, and to prevent the presence of beer on the premises from limiting the open community center ideal. Several community members have objected to the presence of beer at all, and this matter, also was scheduled for the next community meeting. The new owner of the neighboring Poppycock had applied earlier for a beer license, and the Palo Alto City Council unanimously recommended to the Alcoholic Beverage Control that the license not be granted, citing "persistent police problems" on the Poppycock-Tangent corner, the very problems Full Circle hopes to eliminate by giving people on the street a share of the authority - and a share of the consequent responsibility to the community - in Full Circle's operations.

Salaries and hiring policy still haven't been resolved. Gates is receiving \$400 per month, Jensen is working without a salary and the board has authorized the future hiring of Dakota Enterprises at an unspecified fee if a fulltime contractor is needed. Some board members are arguing for subsistence wages for all staff members, others would allow unequal salaries on the basis of need, and still more support competitive salaries on a minimum level necessary to attract and hold qualified employees.

The interim board is also working to identify various area constituencies which might have an interest in Full Circle's operations...Stanford students, downtown Palo Alto Businessmen and the like. All interested people will be acceptable into the cooperative, to make it as representative and serviceable as possible.

Notices regarding meetings and other Full Circle activities are posted daily on the first floor bulletin board.

Possible Activities

Considerable future discussion will center around the use of the large, upstairs theatre room and the semi-separate, downstairs "shoeshine parlor" area fronting on University Avenue. Suggestion for the upstairs area included regularly scheduled films, catered lunches and community meeting space, informal conversation area, live performances and the inevitable psychodrama. Joy Coschigano, a community member and experienced art and antique dealer, proposes that the downstairs area could best serve the community while paying its own way as a retail outlet for community artwork and clothing. Vern Gates suggests a health food store, and Robb Crist has suggested a 24-hour "drop-in" counseling center.

Full Circle has received its building permit, and

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Phil Williams has reported that the structural changes the city has suggested are "practical, and the Building Department has been receptive."

Full Circle has an urgent, continuing need for manpower to help get the building ready for opening. To date, while dozens of people have been willing to turn up at meetings to help the debate along, only a hard-core few have been around to do the actual work. The community center will be ready soon, asks its community for help in getting it there.

Fred Nelson

SMALL INVESTORS NEEDED

Full Circle has received an initial investment of \$10,000 from the Free University and several individuals, but still needs - and very urgently - additional, smaller investments of \$100-200 (or even less). This sort of investment is going to play a very direct part in getting this off the ground. Otherwise we'll wind up as just another pizza parlor, hardly a community asset. This is your opportunity. If you're interested, Mark Jensen at Full Circle, 321-4511, has the details.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

During renovation, Full Circle is open, but not for business, seven days a week (weekdays from 7 P.M.). During the open hours, work will be going on and the place will be papered over with appeals for help. At all times, an informed person will be there to show you how you can help, and to receive your suggestions on Full Circle's operations. WE NEED YOU MORE THAN YOU MAY THINK.

Why We Should Move There

AIN'T NO TIME TO WONDER WHY - WHOOPIE, WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE

If the Free University really is a part of the jewishcommunistconspiracytooverthrowetc., then it seems we've got a lot of hard work to do. We've got a lot of heavy commitments to make and a load of chances to take. There's no sucksess like failure, and failure's no sucksess at all. Horatio Alger or bust.

As it stands, your friends and mine, the Palo Alto city council, is pleased to note that the MFU is a Menlo Park organization. But everyone knows that our real place is right down the street from Hare, Brewer, and Kelly, two blocks from the P.A. Peace Officers Headquarters, and just down the road from the Farm. The Free U belongs in downtown Palo Alto, along with every other respectable corporation.

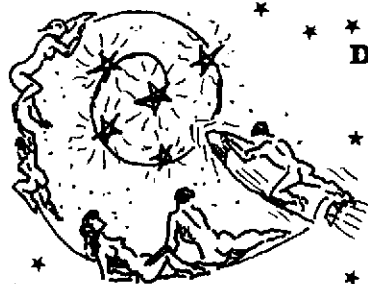
We're dealing in fantasy if we don't cop to the fact that without the energy of a small group of committed people, largely Free University members, the Full Circle would never have come around. It's no paradox, however, that the Full Circle is not the Free University, even though the people who have contributed to the growth of both, are the same

people. While the two organizations will remain legally separate, they draw energy from the same community and they are dedicated to serving that community. There is only US! To divide against ourselves is schizoid, and threatens the existence of the very community we're trying to pull together.

And yet, we appear divided. People are asking, "Should WE help THEM? What will WE gain, and what will WE lose? What are THEY willing to give US?" It's irrelevant. The question is not whether one organization gains or loses, but does the community gain or lose? The worst the Free U can do is lose a building, but that's a risk worth taking if it means the birth of a community center. The reason behind our 'schizophrenia', the division among us, is that some of us are more concerned with our own personal welfare than with the goals of the Free University itself, which are to serve the people. We can't allow the Free University to stand in the way of the growth of the community: we can't place our own security within the self-perpetuation of the status quo, above the inherently dynamic growth of our community. Our first concern must be, "How can the Free U best grow and serve the people."

If the Free University offices were in the Full Circle, everyone would benefit. The Full Circle would be committed to being more than a restaurant, for it would be contributing to the spread of relevant ideas and the creation of an alternative society. Hundreds more people would be drawn into the Full Circle than might otherwise come. And the Free U

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your roots in
the
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would touch the lives of many more people if it was operating from the community's center. The entire community would be better off.

The issue of moving the Free University offices into the Full Circle will be discussed and decided at the February 19th, General Meeting. We urge everyone to attend, express your opinion and vote, remembering that whatever decision we reach will symbolize our commitment to the community.

PHIL TROUNSTINE
CHUCK NOBLE

Why We Shouldn't

I am not now set against the Free University moving into the Full Circle--however, there are a number of considerations which I feel must be thought out before that action is taken.

Will the present fire escape restrict the use of the upstairs area? If so, what change is required and how long will it be before that change is completed?

Will the Palo Alto's licensing of the Full Circle as a restaurant and entertainment center permit the use of part of the facilities to run an operation such as the Free University?

Rent on the present facilities at 1061 El Camino is \$180/month with utilities averaging about \$65/month. That does not include phone bills. What space at the Full Circle would be provided for the Free University on a full time-full use basis and what space would be available with what use or time limitations? What rent will be requested? Does that include utilities? If not, how do you propose dividing utility bills?

Would the Free University be sharing a mailing address with Full Circle? Is there more than one mailing address on the premises? Would it be advisable for the Free University to get a box at the post office?

What about parking for full-time employees? Would they be required to pay Palo Alto's businessmen's parking fee or else move their cars every two hours?

How many entrances are there to the Full Circle building? Will it be possible to have the proposed Free University portion of the building open even when the remainder of the building is closed?

At present a large number of people have keys to the Free University offices--paid employees, volunteer workers and some teachers. Would this policy be possible to continue at the Full Circle?

At present the Nest serves the Free University and the greater community as a communication and services center with a variety of activities taking place. A list of current activities and services is listed below. Would the facilities being provided at the Full Circle permit continuation of each and all of these?

- Free University Registration
- Free University Classes
- Free University Meetings
- Community Bulletin Board
- Job Book
- Housing Book
- Legal Referral
- Medical Referral
- Problem Counseling
- Telephone calling and answering(three lines)

- Correspondence
- Mail distribution
- Typing (much)
- Library
- Clothing Distribution
- Storage
- Children's play
- ...and how about animals on the premises...

It is very important to remember that many activities take place at the same time.

This may seem like a lot to consider, but the Free University is a lot to consider. If the Free University can move in without giving up its current activities and services, then I see no major objections to moving. If it is necessary to give up some of the services and/or activities, then I believe that the community must look at what it may be giving up and what it may be gaining, and then decide what it wants to do.

---PAX---

BOB LITVAK

(A brief addendum: we should note that while our current quarters have lots of work room with free access to the street, the available office space in Full Circle is in a small upstairs room with little natural light, NO direct access to the street and let's face it, the raw volume of the activities and services Bob's listed would seriously conflict with what we're told is necessary to support a self-supporting food operation with wide appeal. In addition, Full Circle's lease is only for a year, the owner is a very canny businessman and probably wouldn't hesitate to jack up the rent or take the premises back if it turns into a moneymaker---regardless of the fact that it's our free and open style that will generate the business. Several times before, the vital on-going operations of the Free U have been threatened by the loss of lease. When this happened before, we felt owning our turf to be such an overriding issue that one of our members consented to buy the Free U building to give us a measure of safety. We don't have to be crammed into a small, upstairs office right there on the premises in order to give Full Circle the total support it needs. Rushing in there before Full Circle has a chance to set up, and before we really figure out where both Full Circle and the Free U are going and can go, financially, would be tying a leaking ship to a millstone.

FN

Hensley In The Race

Palo Alto Times (Modesto UPI)
Self Proclaimed Minister to run for Gov. '70

A self-proclaimed minister, once arrested for ordaining anybody who had the required fee, is the first formally announced candidate for governor in 1970.

Kirby J. Hensley, Modesto, who founded the Universal Life Church, said he will run for governor on the Peace and Freedom Party Ticket.

"Because of my strong feelings against the war and desire for peace, I am in accord with the Peace and Freedom Party in this respect," Hensley was quoted Sunday by the Sacramento Union.

Hesley promised if he got the PFF nomination to "campaign seriously" on a program of "peace and Prosperity."