

# Bruce Bratton, Wingspread

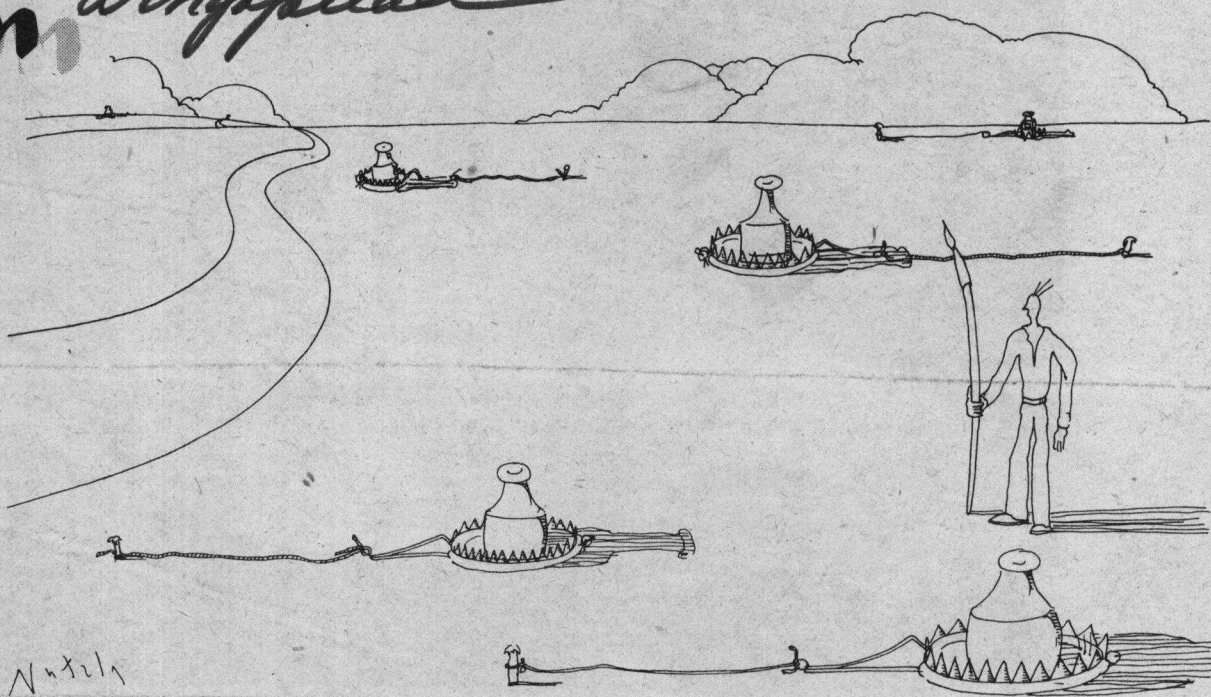
**THE PORTER SESNON STORY, PART TWO.** Ry Kelley and associates invited around 300 folks to come to his Pajaro Dunes Development last Saturday. This was so these culture-oriented people could hear his presentation of what the proposed Wingspread Beach Development would be like. Wingspread Beach, if you got here late, is the proposed 66-acre development across the highway from Cabrillo College. Ry Kelley of Hare, Brewer and Kelley wants to build a 631-unit condominium/resort/hotel-type operation and is trying to get the support of the local cultural folks to make the development slide through the government approval process easier. That's why they are showing a fancy set of drawings of a performing arts center to the interested groups. These drawings are called "eyewash" in the architectural trade. Which means that there can be no guarantee that the actual buildings would come even close to looking like the drawings. The pretty and imaginative pictures just look nice and people can talk about them whilst the developers go around trying to get their 631 condos approved.

**A DAY LIKE ANY OTHER DAY.** So anyway, 85 people showed up in the Grove Room of the P. Dunes to hear this day of speakers talk and maybe give input as to how we thought this performing arts center should look. One brilliant and thoughtful person has called his proposed center "the frosting on the brick"—but I digress. The Grove Room was filled with about one-sixth Hare, Brewer and Kelley's relatives, attorneys and special guests, one-sixth press people, and the rest folks mostly from the Cultural groups who are still trying to figure out what's happening and whether or not they'll get anything out of this deal.

**A BIT OF BACKGROUND.** The original Hare, Brewer and Kelley, by the way, have all gone to developers' heaven or wherever developers go. Ry Kelley is the son of the original Kelley and is, from what I can figure, the guy what calls all the shots. Another thing you might add to your file is that this same Ry Kelley is the fellow who has been in all the hot water over the management of Pajaro Dunes. I hear that lawsuits and much disgruntlement is erupting and boiling down at that other condominium/resort/hotel-type operation. Some of the problems are even now being settled out of court between the unions and Ry Kelley and between the unhappy Pajaro Dunes Homeowners Association and the aforementioned Mr. Kelley. So all is not happy down there and we certainly hope that this type of management situation doesn't repeat itself in case Wingspread should ever actually happen in our lifetime.

**BACK TO THE MEETING.** So we listened while all the out-of-town speakers said they didn't know anything about what was going on here but it all sounds nice. The last speaker was Brendan Gill, the drama critic from the *New Yorker*. I'm not sure about you, but I love that publication. I actually do read it every week. At least I used to read it every week. Most folks at the "Dune Liturgy" were quite surprised to hear Mr. Gill spout sort of a typical New York elitist mess of racial bigotry. It came in the guise of calling the influx of "Caribbean types" a "Mediterraneanization" of New York and Mr. Gill trying in a very haphazard way to convince us that he liked it. As I've mentioned, idols do crumble here and there.

**THEN CAME THE QUESTIONS.** First, Audrey Stanley said that the proposed Greek Theatre didn't look Greek to her and offered to act as a resource person. Then Sandy Lydon suggested that Mr. Kelley and friends hold a meeting that was really open to the public (this meeting was for invitees only at \$5 per person). Ry agreed to have a more accessible get-together and open it up to everybody. Some thought it would be nice to have a great big picnic out on the Porter-Sesnon property with music and talks and then everybody could really get things off their chest. That was one thing that was accomplished. We also learned, after much prodding, that local groups would be allowed to use the auditoria up to one-third of the year. That is, local groups which have a proven satisfactory attendance record (or the Santa Cruz Symphony, Cabrillo Music Festival, Tandy Beal and The Bear Republic Theater so far). These groups would of course have to pay a fee to use the hall that would be comparable to fees for renting other similar facilities. No



one thought to ask Ry just which third of the year he meant. Later, some guessed that he meant Monday through Thursday, while others figured he meant November through March—the worst theater times of the year. We'll find out next meeting, I guess. That's about all I can remember getting from that meeting. I'll, of course, add anything else, if I hear of anything else.

**IN SUMMARY.** This Performing Arts Center is going to cost around \$7 million, and the land will cost around one million. Kelley has said he'll put up half of that total. That means, old friends, that we, the folks, will have to figure out some way to come up with the other half. I also forgot to mention that many of us tried to get Ry to tell us who exactly would decide on who gets to use the hall. For example, if some big-time promoter wanted to put Willie Nelson in there and the Santa Cruz Festival of Living Music also wanted it for a concert on the same night, who'd decide? Ry says there will be a board and that he'll sit on that board. He never said who will get the controlling vote on that board, so I guess we just have to wait until next meeting for that one too. Another concern of mine is that since the folks who are renting these condo/resort/hotel-type units get first choice on tickets, and you have 630 units with two-to-four people in each, that won't leave many available seats for us county folk in a 1,000 seat auditorium. But, as Ry said at the beginning of that memorable but tiring day, "I won't be able to answer with great clarity today."

**LATE BREAKING NEWS.** Going against many of her wealthy and influential campaign supporters, Supervisor Robley Levy led the Board of Supervisors in a three-to-two vote to exclude any private development of the aforementioned P.S. property. Ry Kelley had to admit that this move by the Supes was a "devastating thing." What we all have to realize is that this doesn't mean that Wingspread is clipped forever. Kelley and associates are talking about lawsuits, as developers usually do when they don't get their way. So, they could sue the State but probably not the County as some have feared. Mr. Kelley can also go for an amendment to the General Plan. That will force him to scale down the size of the number of condos and be much more specific in their plan, and that wouldn't hurt. At any rate, Robley Levy, after three exhaustive months of study, came to a conclusion that won her thousands of friends—both now and for several generations. We owe her plenty of thanks.

**S.O.S. FROM SAVE OUR SHORES.** As you know, our shores are threatened now as never before. The most aggressive group to oppose the threat, Save Our Shores, needs new workers. Seems as how lots of folks sign up but don't show up. Besides that, the folks who have been manning and womaning the fort are getting a mite tired. If you want to get in there and preserve our shore and ocean, call 425-5211 quickly. There's going to be a meeting Monday, May 11 (7:30 pm), at Loudon Nelson Center. Any and all talents are needed. Even an hour per week would be tremendous.

**TAMING OF THE SHREW.** It was fabulous. I counted around 850 people there and they loved it too. The people of the Will Geer Theatrum Botanicum were as talented as they were friendly. It was one of the most imaginative re-doings of Shakespeare I've ever seen. I'd tell you more about it, but you can't see it, so it would just make you feel bad. You should have been there. It's too bad Tom Lehrer isn't around any more because they used a line from one of his classic songs. He would have been proud. It is hard to imagine Lehrer and Shakespeare together, but it worked beautifully.

**TOP SECRET.** There's no way I can leak info as to who the famous entertainer is who just may show up at the Santa Cruz All American Free Family Picnic and Hot Air Balloon Extravaganza. Tandy Beal and Company are going to run one of the food booths and the matching-sponsors-with-balloons is being wrapped up right now. Celebrities for the town baseball team will be announced as soon as all contracts are in.

**BUMPER STICKER.** Page Gruys almost saw it: "Recall Daylight Savings." I guess you have to think about it.

**FINALMENTE.** Do stop by the upper level of Deer Park Saturday from 1 to 3 pm. John "U-for-ubiquitous" Tuck and I are going to be fashion commentators for an Aptos High Jazz Band fund raiser. I'm going to have to dust off my rumbled *joie de vivre*. After that we can all meet at the Santa Cruz Express booth at the Last Fast Food Festival over at Loudon Nelson. □

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