

BERKELEY VOICE

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF BERKELEY ■ Thursday, September 12, 1996 ■ Vol. 14, No. 49 ■ 50 Cents TAX INCLUDED

City tax floated

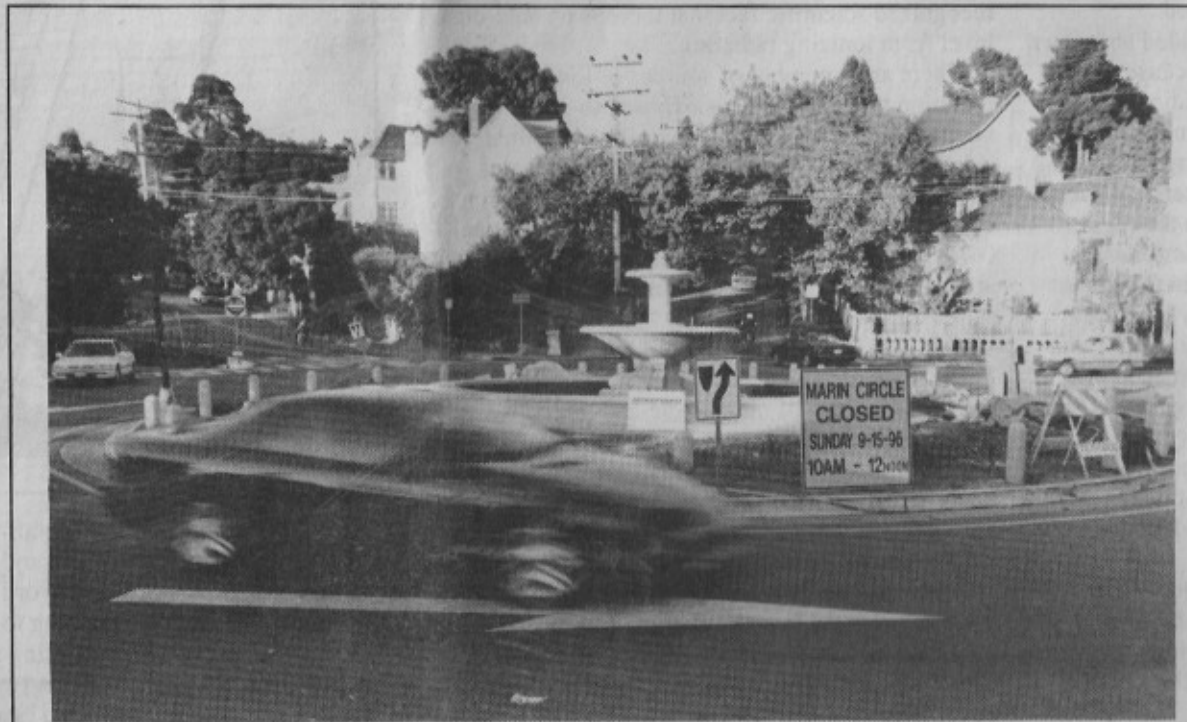
This year, however, the city only gave DBA \$65,000 and Mayor Shirley Dean told the group that it would have to become self-sufficient.

For the past year or so DBA, made up of 100 or so downtown merchants and business professionals, has been devising a way to do that.

The proposed solution is a so-called business improvement district, an assessment on downtown businesses that will raise up to \$5,000 a year. Merchants in the downtown district will pay an extra one-half of one percent tax on their gross receipts.

No one business can be assessed more than \$18,500 or 10 percent of the district's overall budget. The

See TAX, page 16



Dan Krauss

Traffic respite Sunday

Pedestrians will take over the Marin Circle this Sunday morning while neighbors and city officials celebrate the circle's new fountain. Traffic will be diverted from the Circle, and from The Arlington as well. Drivers are urged to plan alternate routes.

ZAB member advised to keep quiet

By Will Harper

A Zoning Board member, who accused the City Council of corruption for giving money to a politically-connected private developer, was warned not to vote on the developer's latest project proposal this week.

Dave Blake sat in the audience while other board members considered