

# WEEKLY FLASH



## Outlook Conference 2008 Floats Into History

It was a glorious morning as about 800 Bay Area Council members, friends and guests, climbed the gangplanks of the U.S.S. Hornet Wednesday to kick off the 2008 Outlook Conference. To those who follow these things, they know no major Council event can proceed without some unplanned element of controversy, and the 150 protestors gathered to draw attention to potential education budget cuts did not disappoint.

The event was a great success, both for the audience and in terms of the critical funds it raised.

The speakers and the insight they offered were also top rate. Janet Yellen, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco gave her take on the economy, launching about 200 media stories. Governor Schwarzenegger honored us with a very rare, unscripted, open conversation that covered serious policy – such as the budget, infrastructure, and public-private partnerships – and humor, like his wife’s

Obama sign on the front lawn, and tales of egos from Sacramento to Hollywood to Muscle Beach. Mayor Willie Brown shared his insights on presidential, California and local politics in profuse and profound stories. The longest serving Commander of the U.S. Central Command, General John Abizaid, shared his thoughts on diplomacy, the war in Iraq and the future of the Middle East.

We also had two great panels on climate change and what some innovative companies are doing about it, plus the evolving US-China relationship.

It was a day to remember and sets a high bar for next year.



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