

Contra Costa Times Dec. 4 letters

Letters from our readers

Posted: 12/03/2008 03:43:28 PM PST

If the actions of liberal activists described in the letter titled "Polarization" (Times Nov. 27) are true, I suggest that they stop whining and start organizing.

As a strong vocal supporter of ending the godless and communistic drug war, I understand political defeat and disappointment.

But can you imagine if the supporters of the defeated Proposition 5 acted like that? They would call us all crazed drug addicts.

Medical marijuana patients still have no job protections in California even though they actually won their election (Proposition 215) because the governor isn't man enough to defend democracy.

There are many injustices imposed by corrupt politicians and bureaucrats who are too cowardly to defend democracy and too spiritually perverted to speak against same-sex rape in their prison system while they hypocritically support Proposition 8.

Regarding drugs or any material substance, Jesus says: "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him" (Mark 7:15). Behaviors defile mankind, not substances (Mark 7: 15-23).

Limit government, not liberty.

Glenn White

Dublin

Specific service

Thank you for continuing to cover Alamo incorporation. However, regarding your story of Nov. 26, "Services from police could be handcuffed," I want to clarify one point.

By law, property owners who pay an assessment fee for a specific service must receive the specific service for which the fee is collected.

So, by law, Roundhill property owners who now pay a fee for special police services will continue to receive the services they pay for if the governance of Alamo changes from Contra Costa County to the Town of Alamo.

No ifs, ands, or handcuffs!

Grace Schmidt

Alamo

Incorporation

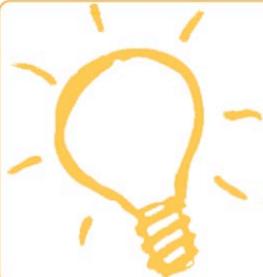
The recently disclosed \$1.7 billion debt of Contra Costa County brings a huge change to unincorporated areas.

Because the county needs to generate maximum new sales and property tax revenues, Alamo is now fodder for the county to widen roads, develop new regional commerce, and rezone. Unprecedented as these actions are in Alamo, they are necessary now because of the debt, and they are legal because the county owns the general plan that governs Alamo.

The county also needs to cut services. It has cut sheriff's services annually since fiscal year 2006-07, and it plans another sheriff's cut for 2008-09.

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Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (CFA) of Alamo incorporation offers us an alternative to being changed by the county into a San Ramon look-alike.

There is still time for all of us who want to keep our two-lane roads and modest freeway intersections to recognize that the county can no longer afford to pacify us in this regard.

Because state law governing incorporation changed in 2000, there is no city/town in Contra Costa County that has had to meet anything close to the standards of the Alamo CFA.

Please read it at www.contracostalafco.org.

Nancy Snyder

Alamo

Must go

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau must go. He's a relic of shrewd political calculations, classism, anti-environmentalism, and police abuses.

UC won't lower fees nor increase worker benefits, but Birgeneau still takes perks and raises. He did nothing as administrators raided the coffers, including Vicky Harrison's \$2.1 million fiasco.

His "Access and Excellence" plan calls for tuition increases; apparently only the rich are excellent and deserve access.

Birgeneau claimed the tree sitters and their supporters were a white power movement (despite the protesters' varied ethnic backgrounds) who wanted to stop the new gym to keep minorities out of the university.

In Birgeneau's mind, racial minorities are there for

sports, not education. He calls for increased animal testing, wasting millions on discredited techniques that don't truly apply to human health.

All the LRD projects are tied to bad sciences, questionable business partners and practices; thankfully things keep stalling. Birgeneau worked with Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff and Assistant DA Robert Graff to deregulate the UC police, so it has less accountability, less burden of evidence.

He has UC police doing video surveillance of activists and the homeless. His police raided a library.

Nathan Pitts

San Ramon

Serious?

A recent letter writer proposed a new constitutional amendment demanding proof of procreation in order for a couple to retain their marriage license.

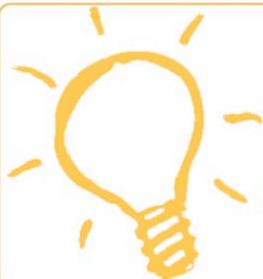
We spent the day trying to decide if this was a very clumsy attempt at satire or a product of terribly dangerous thinking and if Procreation Defines Marriage is a real organization.

In the writer's mad tirade and vicious search for homosexuals, she hasn't even seemed to consider that some married couples may not want or cannot have biological children.

How would she deal with adoptive parents?

Regardless of those obvious omissions in thinking, the concept of this proposed constitutional amendment is utterly repugnant.

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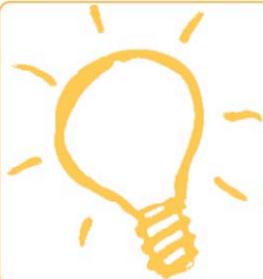
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If the letter was a joke or attempt at ridiculing an opposite point of view, it needs an obvious clue so we can ultimately read it that way.

Ron and Nancy Geren

Livermore

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