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SINCE 1920's

## OPINION

# PRICE

[From page 6]

taxes by half the amount proposed and fund the projects over time, as the money comes in the door. The same amount of work gets done, it just takes a bit longer.

This pay-as-you-go approach eliminates the interest payments, which go straight to bond holders. And while anybody can buy these bonds, most will be purchased by Wall Street investment firms.

Think about the irony of that. The most ardent supporters of the Midpen district are probably those who hate Wall Street the most in our community. Yet they're pushing a bond issue that will pay the very people they hate more than \$300 million. Why should Peninsula taxpayers pump money into Wall Street investment firms?

### A contrarian view

Finally, let me deal with the urban myth propagated by other media outlets, which goes something like this: If Midpen didn't exist, our foothills would be covered with houses.

I've talked to government planners and developers about this. The truth is that the development of our foothills was stopped mostly because of stringent zoning regulations, not land purchases by Midpen.

I realize that I'm the contrarian in the local media stew. I'll be outshouted by the Midpen cheerleaders at the other papers.

In the next few days, we will get letters from people who say I'm a terrible person for opposing this measure, that all my facts are wrong, and that I don't care about chirping birds, cute squirrels and cuddly bobcats.

Don't worry. I doubt I've changed very many minds. I'm sure Measure

AA will pass with 70% or more of the vote. After all, the proponents are spending \$550,000 to pass it, an extraordinary amount for a local ballot measure. OK, start sending your hate mail now.

• • •

### Losing control of cops

How did Menlo Park's parking ticket problem get out of control? As the Post reported last Wednesday, Menlo Park hands out nine times more parking citations than Los Altos — two towns that are about the same size.

Last Tuesday, Menlo Park's council members acknowledged that they have a problem.

"I think our enforcement is aggressive, maybe a little overly aggressive," said Councilman Rich Cline. "I got a ticket for parking on a white line; I've never had a ticket for parking on a white line before."

Why did it take Cline and his colleagues on council so long to realize this was a problem? For years the Post has been printing letters from people who visited downtown Menlo Park and wound up with a ticket. The letters usually end with the promise from the author that they won't return to Menlo Park ever again to do shopping or dining.

I've got to wonder how much business Menlo Park has lost? Why has this problem taken so long to reach council? My only guess is that nobody on council is watching the police department very closely, and officers do whatever they please.

Editor Dave Price's column appears every Monday. Email him at price@padaily.com.

# LETTERS

[From page 6]

punished. We are only a hair's breath from having all our private communications, on the net, on the phone and even at home monitored. This is a very serious, slippery slope and similar to the censorship of thought in Soviet Russia. We should all be wary.

Nancy Deussen  
Mountain View

### Support Buena Vista

Dear Editor: Last Wednesday, the folks from the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Palo Alto had a small demonstration along El Camino Real, near their homes.

Many people honked and waved as they drove by. I stopped and talked to the demonstrators and found out that there will be a rally on May 12 from 5:45-6:15 p.m., at Cogswell Park, Bryant Street and Lytton Avenue.

From 6:30-9:30 p.m., there will be a

hearing at the Avenidas Senior Center, 450 Bryant St. The flyer I was given states, "An Administrative Law Judge will hear lawyers present evidence and testimony on whether the property owner's Relocation (displacement) Plan for residents is legally sufficient."

I encourage The Daily Post to keep the public apprised of events such as these. The possibility of these hard-working people and their children not only losing their homes but no longer being Palo Alto residents is a tragedy and a loss to our city, which is rapidly becoming a homogenous group consisting of only the very affluent.

Ruth de Larios  
Palo Alto

### Council candidate?

Dear Editor: On April 22, the Post had a story detailing former Planning [See MARTINEZ, next page]

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